真・天地無用！ 魎皇鬼外伝

天地無用！GXP 5

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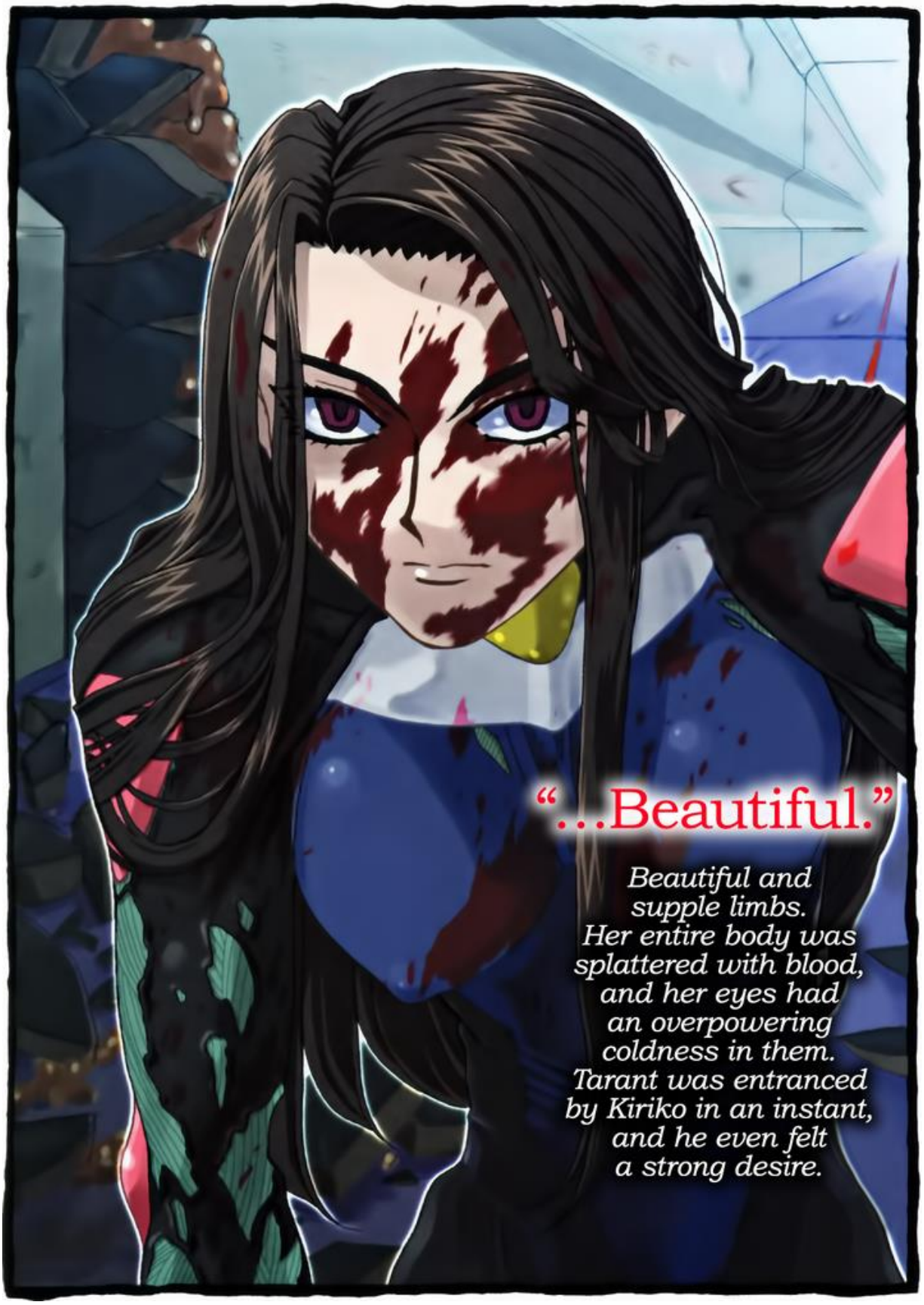
SHIN TENCHI MUYO! RYO-OHKI GAIDEN
真・天地無用！魎皇鬼外伝
天地無用！GXP 5
TENCHI MUYO! GXP 5
“…Tenchi-senpai’s older sister?”
The differences between Tennyo and Kiyone, as far as could be seen through old photos and vague memories, was their hairstyle alone. They were the same in every other way.

“Meow! Meow!”
“No, Ryo-Ohki.
This one hasn’t been born yet,
it doesn’t know who you are.”
Washu peeled Ryo-Ohki off and handed her to Sasami.


"...Beautiful."
Beautiful and supple limbs. Her entire body was splattered with blood, and her eyes had an overpowering coldness in them. Tarant was entranced by Kiriko in an instant, and he even felt a strong desire.

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Chapter One: Decision and Reunion

Two things come to all human beings equally, birth and death. Kiriko and Amane were thinking of the victims of the Tarrant raid. They were sitting on a simple bench with slightly tense expressions in the corridor in front of the conference room on the satellite used for the GP executive meetings.

The blue shining academy planet could be seen through the window in the wall in front of them. The continent with the GP academy was visible to them.

“... ... Seina...” Kiriko imagined how much shock Seina was in after hearing about this from Erma as she looked at the planet. Her facial expression distorted. Amane noticed and slowly put her hand on Kiriko's clasped hand.

“Amane .....”

Amane was gazing at the same place as Kiriko, she was thinking about the same thing.

“It seems that the meeting has ended.” And the weight of Amane's hand on Kiriko's suddenly relaxed then vanished.

”... ... Looks like it.”

The door opened, the GP executives who came out from the conference room were uniformly stiff, and between the GP people who wore uniforms dyed blue and those in the military department wearing green-based uniforms, an emotion similar to hatred flew in.

It was clear just from their eyes even to those who did not know the circumstances of what was going on.

“Hmpf!” One military-related executive took a look at Kiriko and showed a contempt filled expression. “Why are these little girls here?”

That executive knew who Kiriko was when they called her to come to this place. However, because they were in this place on the side of the GP they were being met with strange gazes. But, it seemed that they were

also embarrassed to look directly at the beautiful Amane, and their line of sight was delicately deviated from her.

"……Oh!"

Amane found a man she knew among the uncomfortable atmosphere.

Nakita Kuramitsu, Mitoto's husband, Mihoshi's father. Amane had been familiar with his face from a young age.

"Uncle……" Amane who was feeling a sense of fear sprang to life upon seeing Nakita.

But he glared back at her with same harsh eyes as the other executives. Amane backed down like a puppy who was scolded by his owner while the executive group passed by. Nakita didn't even flinch.

When the executives had all cleared out, Mikami, who came out from the conference room, gave a bitter smile to Kiriko. "I wish I had you wait in another place." Mikami gently placed her hands on Amane's shoulder. She was shivering.

"No, we don't mind." Amane said.

Mikami smiled at Amane's words, Mikami started walking in the direction opposite to what the executives took. Behind Kiriko, who started walking with Mikami, thick bulkheads were lowered, the windows became opaque, and the passage turned into a completely soundproof enclosed chamber.

"Even though the Galactic Federation has been around for over 10,000 years ago, they keep dredging up the old relationship between Seniwa and Jurai."

Kiriko who heard Mikami's bitter complaints was a little surprised. "Well ... ... what happened at the meeting?"

"Ho ho ho, I'm in trouble because there hasn't been any progress, just like every time such an incident happens, no matter how much the equipment of the GP is strengthened or the size of the GP troops is expanded ... they want more." Mikami was grumbling because Nakita was there to talk about the expansion of armaments.

A military official would inevitably take a step back when talking to the Kuramitsu family who were the most substantial rulers of Seniwa, and Mikami was the most important person in the family at the moment. But Nakita had no problem confronting her. That's why the military pushed Nakita to the front line of the discussion.

"Since the GP was originally the private army of the Kuramitsu family, it's unavoidable that such ideas persist ..."

“I'm not mad at Nakita, that's that child's job ... I'm sorry, I'm sure you don't want to hear me complain, oho ho.”

“... Well, if you don't want to talk about it anymore then I'll ask you again. Why we were called here?”

“Well, I hoped to tell you the truth of this incident.”

“What is the truth ...?”

“In the official announcement it was said that the relay station ship was attacked by someone and annihilated. To say that it is the truth. But it is just as much as one should tell those who don't need to know all the details. Do you want to know more?”

“Yes!” Kiriko and Amane nodded.

Mikami took a deep breath, “The raiders were led by Tarrant Shank.” She told them with a tough expression.

“!” Amane and Kiriko widened their eyes and gasped when they heard Mikami's words.

There was an implicit rule with the GP that if you give up, the pirates would not attack any further. However, among the many Space Pirates, there were also many people who don't give a second thought about killing for fun. The man named Tarrant was among them, he was a heinous man proud to bear the title of Space Pirate. They instantly understood why the information was hidden.

“The existence of Seina is great for the Galactic Federation, but there are those who don't welcome it ... ... and they aren't all Space Pirates.”

“Is Seina's presence a troublesome thing for the army?”

“Even for the GP.”

“So that’s it!”

“Certainly, thanks to Seina, you've been able to arrest a large number of vicious offenders, but he's still attracting a large number of criminals, which in turn triggers crime.”

“There's no basis for making such a statement, nothing like that happened when he was on Earth!”

“Even so... this is being seen as a massive retaliation to the mass capture of those Space Pirates.”

“I see so, that's what this is about...” Kiriko understood what Mikami meant.

The massive capture of the Space Pirates by Seina dramatically reduced the power of the Space Pirates. The Space Pirates feared losing their power and became impatient. They were

experiencing despair, and there was a fear that the implied rules of engagement with the GP would be nullified.

“In the attack on the decoy division department belonging to the second relay station ship, the two people captured by Seto-sama's fleet, Radi Shank and Aru Shank, were secretly isolated.”

“So Tarrant raided to recapture them!?”

However, to the words of Kiriko, Mikami quietly shook her head no. “It seems that almost all of the victims in that ship, including those two, had to be confirmed by their genes due to how mangled they were, and 85 people including three of our students were killed and their bodies were taken hostage.”

“Sorry ....” Kiriko and Amane stood dumbfounded at Mikami's words.

“Then the next target of Tarrant's is ... Seina, isn't it?”

“That would be the most effective one.”

“Effective?”

“The man named Tarrant is a highly prideful man. He killed those two just because they got caught. Jurai or even Seto-sama, who imprisoned Radi and Aru could both be targets ..... he could try to murder Minaho-sama, or Kanemitsu. Seto-sama's fleet could be captured in retaliation.”

“Yeah, that's too risky, individuals are a more likely target, no one is going to attack Jurai... even if you attack when they’re at their most defenseless it's a suicide mission, especially with their royal trees. ..... But targeting an individual is far less difficult ..... but if they even try it, Seto's Intelligence Department will know ... ... “

At this time, Mikami did not say anything, but Tarrant had already advanced on several organizations and was going after Seto's financial backers. However all those attacks had been dealt with.

“So Seina is an easy target ... .” As if to react to Kiriko's words, Mikami turned around towards Kiriko.

“About one hour ago, a video catalog of everyone taken away was sent to the GP, various political figures, and the press.” Mikami said that with no expression.

“That bastard ... ... they're ransoming the dead ... .” Kiriko muttered unconsciously.

“GP headquarters refuses to make the deal, and we have to tell bereaved family directly .....”

“There is no way to suppress that information from leaking. And think of all the fallout from that.”

Tarrant's ultimate purpose was to eliminate Seina. If he negatively affected public opinion of Seina, it would be easier to get information linked to Seina.

“Every single one of the people in those families could end up a threat to Seina ...” Kiriko muttered with a clouded expression.

“When considering Seina's bad luck, the risk is high, and the Galaxy Academy is a place perfect for such trouble.”

“So, it is imperative that we quickly and quietly resolve this case.”

“How hasn't this already leaked though?”

“It was helpful that we introduced this new system. Using it we can delete things the moment they are uploaded to the web and then have everyone concerned identified and restrained. We had to consult some experts to get that set up though.”

(Experts ... ... Surely she means Washu-sama ... ...) Washu's survival had not yet been made public. If that was known, and it was known she had done such a thing, the Academy would break into utter chaos.

“Are you sure about all this?”

“That's what I was told.”

“Why did you put such an important prisoner on something like a mobile relay station ship? Who made such a bad decision ...?”

“It seems that we transported them there because the system was down at the Academy, I guess they intended to hide them in the back.” In an attempt to obstruct Kiriko's questioning, Mikami turned around and started walking again - it meant she refused to pursue further questioning on the subject.

Kiriko and Amane started to chase Mikami. “Even without telling them the worst information, it will be a shock to them just by the fact that their friends were killed. Therefore, we'll gather all freshmen in the afternoon and explain the incident at that time. Then, after that we'll send them to counseling ... ... Although it's a bit early, this will be their first true aptitude test.” Mikami said with gentle tone. However, there was a heavy feeling of distress in her voice.

While Mikami was talking about the results of the conference with the Kiriko, the military sector leaders also walked through a dedicated passage which was completely soundproofed.

“That went just about as expected,” one of the leaders complained satisfactorily. As a result of that, the other people around him also began to talk bluntly.

Nakita responded, “It was just part of the territory with recruiting Seina Yamada, if we want to use him for the decoy department, it's unavoidable that we'd need Kiriko's support.”

“Indeed, exactly, and with him we can shift the role of the decoy department to the suppression of the Space Pirates ...” The leaders rejoiced satisfactorily to this.

The decoy department originally drew Space Pirate raids to them so they could deliver packages safely to their destination. However, if it was possible to attract Space Pirates with a high probability, it was possible to transition the department to focus on their subjugation, not just their diversion.

“... and then we can incorporate the decoy division into the army.” When the man said that, Nakita noticed Misao waiting at the entrance of his space port.

“Well, I have to rush. Can't be rude.” Nakita left them and got on board the ship that Misao brought.

Nakita quickly rushed to the bridge of the ship. He saluted back to the saluting crew and sat down in his official seat.

“The meeting seems to have worked out well, hasn't it?” Misao who sat next to Nakita said while looking at the military leaders on the monitor for external monitoring.

“You shouldn't eavesdrop, you'll end up looking like those officers do.”

“Well by that logic I could also end up looking like your sister Mikami ... .”

* * * **Translators’ note: This is a line that can only be understood if you know spoilers... In actuality Mikami is still young and attractive.** * * *

Misao waved his hand to the Captain while smooth talking to Nakita. At his signal, the ship launched into space.

“From my point of view, there is no point in having that happen either.” Nakita glanced at Misao, with a puzzled expression. He said with a sigh, “Of course I am aware of what's going to happen, but I am directly involved with Amane, as well as Kiriko, so it is only me that the damage will eventually come to.”

Misao had a fiancé to whom he would be married soon named Mashisu. She was a former colleague of Misao's older sister, Mihoshi, and was now adopted by Seto. Amane was her friend and Kiriko was her relative.

“So you've also been made a chain of that shitty old hag association now too, haven't you ...?”

“I'm quite satisfied with the current situation.”

“Huh ... ... well, good luck then.”

“Even so, it's useless as usual, father, I think that the time spent on such things is not really anything but uselessness.” Misao told his father.

“But without meetings, there will only be more wasteful conflicts, even if there is no fundamental solution, we'll at least have a reasonable souvenir.”

“Huh ... ... so is that why you're trying to get Seina into the decoy division?”

“Given his abilities, there are no other options ... .” Nakita closed his eyes and leaned deep into the chair.

“Hey, you guys, what happened to Seina?” Mitoto, who should not have been on board, was looking at Nakita as she held a mop.

“Hey Misao, what happened to Seina?” Mitoto looked at Misao this time when Nakita looked away.

“We decided he would be assigned to the decoy division, please keep it secret. It hasn't been disclosed officially yet.”

“Oh no! I have to congratulate him! Once it's officially announced of course.” The two, accustomed to Mitoto were less than surprised and continued to talk as if Mitoto had been there all the time. However, the bridge's crew panicked.

“Sir, I'm sorry. There seems to be an abnormality in the ship's check at departure ... .” A newly assigned operator started hurriedly checking instruments.

“Calm down, that extra person is just Mitoto, it's not your fault.”

“What ... that woman... that one?” The operator regained calmness after he saw Mitoto.

“You should go back to your duties, Misao and I have work to do.” That said, Nakita and Misao opened some document data and started checking it. Mitoto satisfied with things picked up a mop and started cleaning the floor.

(I bet the Devil Princess is laughing at us with delight at our decision on Seina.) Since the establishment of the Galactic Federation, security within the federation had stabilized rapidly. As a result, the role of the GP army had been reduced, police operations and home delivery services had become the center of its activities.

It was also a great relief because many planets hated the intimidation of Seniwa's private army, which was absorbed into the GP. And since the GP military was formed, Jurai and many other smaller armies of the other planets were absorbed into it. But the majority of the staff of the GP army still came from Seniwa's army.

The GP and the people that joined it from within the Federation slowly changed its makeup. And the reduction of technological difference between the police sector and the military department by the technology provided by the academy expanded the police sector while shrinking the need for the army and now the army was treated as a special department within the GP Police Department. Naturally, there was tension between the two. The army was mostly used only for anti-space piracy suppression. With Seina's recent mass arrest of the space pirates, fears of the department becoming superfluous had emerged. (The military executives were more upset than

I thought they would be ... Seina Yamada ... thanks to his assignment I've been able to postpone their anxieties for the time being.)

The army could not move without a request from the police department. Among them, the decoy division was the place where the military's voice was relatively strong, due to the nature of Space Pirates.

Nakita could see Seto laughing maniacally as she pulled everyone's strings in his mind.

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“Are you okay? You don't have to go back to your dorm just yet if you don't want to.”

Seina looked out of the window of the car as Erma looked up at him anxiously. “I'm fine, thank you.” Seina said as he smiled at Erma.

“Seina ...” Erma was staring at the hem of Seina's shirt.

“Ms. Erma?” Seina for a moment, wondered if the hem of his shirt was caught in something, he reached down to feel it. But he only found Erma's hand, Erma looked at him in a strange way.

“... ... Beware of the lawn.” Erma was puzzled about his actions, and gazed at Seina's face gently, she confirmed that Seina's expression wasn't laced with the smell of death, and finally pulled away her hands.

“Oh ... Yes, that's right.... Okay ... Well... I'll be going now.” Seina remembered the many times around the dormitory that he was caught up in the runaway stampede of wildlife that lived in the forest nearby.

(As soon as he gets something, he loses it ... ... he's too used to it by now) Erma breathed a big sigh as he left. Erma got back in her car and drove off and began to cry. She drove a bit erratically as she wiped away her tears.

Seina was deep in contemplation as he went back to his dorm. “It's only been a month since I came here ... .” Seina remembered when he was first sent to Airi.

The way he walked in full of hope - for Seina it was supreme happiness. However, the reality that was the GP now showed itself, the reality that Kiriko warned him about. (It's dangerous... but, I experience near death situations everyday .....) Seina was thinking idly as he was walking along the boardwalk between the big trees. “I want to stay in space, I want to go further, Seto-sama and a lot of people told me that my bad luck is necessary, and I like this place ... but ... is my staying here okay?” That was the thing that Seina wondered. (Maybe Miki-senpai getting acquainted with me was what caused this .....) Seina shook his head to cast out that thought. “I'm so used to everyone being afraid to come near me... .... but the people who aren't always end up hurt.”

Seina was used to his own pain. He was able to cope with it fairly well. But he had always had trouble with the pain of others. “Actually ..... I should return to Earth ... but .....” being in space was the best opportunity he had ever gotten, he couldn't let it go that easily. “But I want to stay here ... I want to stay!” Seina shouted loudly as he committed to staying in space. (To become a human being, like Seto told me) Seina ran into the dormitory with resolve in his heart. And was swept up in a stampede.

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(Erma-san told me to be careful ... ...) Fortunately, the heard was a small one this time and he arrived at the dorm relatively unscathed. He got into his room and the atmosphere was very daunting just like Erma had suspected.

“Seina, uhm... how we should say this ... .” His roommates tried to comfort him.

“Thank you, but I already know. I'll be fine.”

“That ... uhm... oh ... Is that so?” They seemed both relieved and a little discomforted by Seina's firm expression and smile. Seina quickly headed for his room.

“Wait, Seina,” Rajau called. It seemed like it was going to be a dry evening.

Seina tried to think of something to describe the situation but unconsciously stopped. It reminded him of a bad memory from the past.

*** * * Translators’ note: ---Tenchi's mother---- * * ***

“Are you OK?”

“I'm fine ... heh.”

Kenneth looked at Seina's eyes expecting tears. But as Seina came closer, his eyes changed from sadness to embarrassment and then to frustration.

“You ... why are you looking like that?”

“Huh?”

“Miki-senpai is dead, why can you laugh like that?”

“Laughing??” Seina looked at Kenneth embarrassed. His tone was moderate, but there was a clear anger in his eyes.

“... ... It's unfortunate when people you know die, is it a routine matter for you?”

“Kenneth!”

“…… Sorry that was a bad way to put it” Kenneth apologized and regained his composure.

“Seina ... your face is a bit painful for us to look at right now.” Rajau continued Kenneth's words to Seina, who had a strange look on his face. “Hey Seina, what was it like when you heard about Miki-senpai?”

“Huh?”

“Was it the same as now? Were you sad, didn't you feel sad?”

Seina understood the meaning of Rajau's words, he remembered what happened when he heard of Miki's death. “..... When I first heard about Miki, I didn't know what to feel, but it wasn't sad. Honestly, that is still the case ..... I cried, when I thought of Miki-senpai's father's.”

“Is that so? ... I guess Seina is just too used to dealing with misfortune.” Rajau said as if to sigh a deep breath.

Seina wasn't laughing, he just had the usual look. This abnormal situation just felt like his ordinary daily life.

“Seina! Well, do you at least feel bad about it? Don't you want to get revenge on those who did this to Miki?” Kenneth stood up with tears. “Seina you know Airi. Maybe she can do something!”

“Yeah, you know the Devil Princess of Jurai! Do you think she will let you use an Imperial Ship to go after them?” His friends began to say. Their momentum resembled a volcano that was about to erupt.

“.....” Seina became a bit irritated by their words. What they were suggesting was wacky and reckless. They didn't even know the location of the relay station ship they were aboard, or even the details of the attack. (In such a situation, Seto is not sweet enough to lend an “Imperial ship” And even if I could, I'm still me ...) If Seina went off into space on his own who knew what could happen. He would most likely only get in the way of everyone else who could do something.

Of course, the passion of boys was precious. However, Seina was familiar with the danger in taking such actions. Unhappiness for Seina was a constant and repetitive state. It was more important for him to think about a way to deal with the unhappiness that would come next, rather than to mourn his misfortune.

“.....” Contrary to their expectations, Seina remained silent. And when they started to question him, “What would I even do if she did?”

“!” They seemed to realize the absurdity of their own statements.

“It's cool, we understand.” Rajau smiled and placed his hand on Seina’s shoulder.

“Sorry Seina. You’re right... but I can't just sit here and accept that.”

An announcement rang out. “All grades waiting in the dormitory please come to the GP Academy.”

“Let's go.” Rajau said while taking a deep breath that conveyed a sense of relief from being released from an awkward situation.

A short moment later Seina, Kenneth and Rajau were in a hall with all the other freshman. They were gathered to be told about the incident with Miki. They then sorted themselves into lines, one line was for counseling for those who decided to stay, one was to go home, the other was to quit the GP Academy and go somewhere else in the academy, the last was to get revenge on Miki's attackers. Seina chose to stay. Mikami and Kiriko watched him get into the line of people staying from a monitor in Mikami's office.

Kiriko breathed a sigh of relief. “It seems like I'm going to remain employed with the GP for the time being.”

“I thought you'd be rooting for him to go home.” Like Kiriko, Amane spoke with a relieved expression.

“Well...”

“So, what changed?”

“That's not important right now Amane. What about the other students?” Kiriko looked at Mikami glaringly.

“The current results are just as we expected, only a few students have dropped out of school ....”

“..... Indeed, this is a perfect situation for an aptitude test” Kiriko said, pursing her lips.

Mikami, who was watching the situation, smiled oddly. “Ms. Masaki, Ms. Kaunaq, I have calmed down the situation, so you can return to your duties.” She turned her back against them.

“Well, but ... “

“Let's have lunch a little later but for now please leave.”

Amane forcibly left the principal's office with Kiriko.

Kiriko grabbed Amane's hand when they left. “What are you doing?”

“I need you to come with me for a moment, it's about Seina.”

“Huh!?” Kiriko turned red. Unlike Mikami it was easy to read her feelings.

“But I have to get back to work ....”

“To worry about the students is also part of the job, Just because the students have been given counselors, doesn't mean everyone who knew Miki is going to be fine with this situation.”

“Oh... ... That's right ...”

“Hmm?”

“What do you think he will do when he sees Seina?” However, instead of answering Amane's question, Kiriko started to walk away. Amane followed her.

*** * * Translators’ note: * the spoiler commentary that was previously here has been moved to the end of the chapter. * * ***

Erma arrived aboard the small spacecraft owned by Airi and immediately headed for her office. Her duties as a Secretary included everything from taking care of Airi's personal belongings, to things such as handling email and communication, customer service, schedule management, and document creation / management. Thousands of secretaries were needed in the academy to help the various philosophers but she was special in the sense that she had an office in Airi's spacecraft.

Her office was an apartment type residential area in the back of the spacecraft, and she had lived here until moving to Amane’s with Seina. Her room which was about 30 tatami mats wide, had only a desk and bed for work, and a little table, there was high performance compressed storage on the wall for her personal belongings. Erma sat at the work desk and immediately started a monitor, she quickly checked her e-mail.

“There are no calls from Airi ... ...” she exercised her privileges as Airi's secretary and began accessing the highly confidential area of the GP's database. And in a few minutes ..... “Oh!” Erma, now knew the truth of the incident with Miki. She was unable to endure her anger and beat her fist on her work desk.

“What a mess.....” An automated call from Airi came in on her monitor.

“Airi-sama!? ..... SOS!?” It was an emergency call from Airi. Erma got up quickly and ran out of the room.

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Seina looked for Hiroshi at his burnt-out lab. He was supposed to be there cleaning, but he wasn't. So Seina went to the special place that Miki had shown him before she died. It was still night there because of the time difference. When he got there he looked around and could tell that there were two people there, he went up the stairs in that building he had visited last time and thought he saw Hiroshi with Kiriko, but upon closer observation it was Tsukiko.

(No, that's not Kiriko - san ... That's Aunt Tsukiko, but why is Tsukiko at the Academy?)

Hiroshi and Kiriko's mother, Tsukiko, were on the upper floor. Seina's ears were confused as he listened to the two speak.

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“This place hasn't changed at all.”

“Remember the last time we were here?”

“Yeah. We were here with him and Kiriko. She was just a baby.”

“Stop you're making me feel old.”

“I think you've grown prettier with age.”

“A lot of time must have passed if you're now willing to openly say such flattering things.”

“... ... I'm surprised that you came here ... do you know what I did?” Hiroshi said, “I'm sorry ... I am ...”

“Don't get me wrong.” Tsukiko said interrupting him. “I came here ... to comfort my friend over the loss of his daughter.”

“Huh!!”

Tsukiko's words were surprising for Hiroshi. Hiroshi began to say something but he burst into tears that overwhelmed his ability to speak.

(So Aunt Tsukiko and Miki's senpai's father were friends ... ...)

Hiroshi broke into tears. Seina felt he should stop eavesdropping and went back downstairs. Outside he noticed the moss had receded like Miki said it would and admired the view. It was something Miki had wanted to show him, but she never got the chance to.

Tsukiko and Hiroshi came outside and sat down, he buried his head in Tsukiko’s lap and cried as she comforted him. She took out a towel and dried his tears. He regained his composure and put the towel on his head. He began confessing to Tsukiko.

“At first, I was just trying to have a little fun. When I saw you with Kiriko I wondered what things would be like if we ever had something between us.”

“So, Miki-chan was supposed to be our love child?”

“No, no, it's not like that. At first, I built a model using your personal data ... ... of course, I didn't acquire your data illegally! I just collected things that were in the public record ... it took a lot of trial and error to make it ... ... It was fun to have something that could respond to

things similarly to you... even if it was a pain to make ... One day, I began talking with it about things that the personal data construct couldn't have known, things that couldn't have been imagined from the records that I used. It was then that I knew that the personal data construct had an Astral."

"It must have had some memory feedback from the Astral Sea ..... that's amazing ... that hasn't happened to an AI program of that kind ever before, you could win an academic achievement award with such a finding."

"But I was scared! I thought I did a terrible thing ... I certainly had a strong desire to announce my AI discovery, but if I announced it, they would learn how I made it. I even thought about deleting it. I didn't want you to know. You and I were well... I just wanted to be a closer friend to you... I couldn't erase the AI. To destroy an AI with an Astral would feel the same as killing you ... Since I originally started this experiment to see what it would be like for us to have a child together I erased the AI's memory... I worried that the process might remove the Astral, but it remained. I cleared her memory and made her a body and raised her as a normal child... it was my penance for making such a thing..."

"……Oh is that so?" Tsukiko stared at silent Hiroshi. Tsukiko, stood up and stood before Hiroshi. "Hey Hiroshi, this is a really small possibility, but ..."

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Seina got up and went to go surprise the two but he slipped and fell hard on the ground on his face. A shadow of a person came over Seina. "Who's there?" He quickly got up and turned around

"Well, hello there Seina-chan!"

... It was Tenchi's mother, Kiyone, who was standing in front of Seina. "..... Auntie Kiyone!"

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Tenchi was crying on the day his mother died. Thinking back, that memory was the biggest trauma in Seina's life. For Seina, that was the first death that he had witnessed. Even more so because it happened to a close friend who had accepted him. Seina began crying like a child as she held and comforted him

"... Oh wow... just like Tenchi..." When he calmed down and stopped crying he noticed that his face was pressed into Kiyone's breasts and he began to get uncomfortable.

"Have you calmed down?"

"Yes."

"Okay, good."

He remembered a day in the past when he was young. The sky had begun to turn red, and Kiyone went with Kiriko looking for Seina, to take him home when was playing with Tenchi and Kai. Kiyone loved her real son Tenchi and Seina without distinction. She scolded him properly when she found him that day.

He remembered one time when he was in the hospital, Kiyone scribbled all over his forehead. Seina had a sense of incongruity when he thought about the appearance of Tenchi's relatives at Kiyone's funeral. Tenchi's father, the Masaki family people, and of course Kiriko all grieved Kiyone's death. There was a special custom in the Masaki's village, the way people participated in the funeral was different depending on the deceased person. In the case of Kiyone, the only men and women who could participate in the wake were her husband and his relatives. Even Rea, who was like a sister to Kiyone wasn't allowed. Even though Rea was not allowed to participate directly, she was permitted to stay at the Masaki's house during the affair.

Kai, wasn't allowed to participate in the wake, neither was Seina's mother. So, she looked after them. While Tsukiko and Kiriko went to the wake, Seina stayed at home with Kai. Upset in his futon, he was almost unable to sleep. The next day Tsukiko came by and he hugged her and saw her off as she headed off to the funeral.

“So Aunt Kiyone was at the academy this whole time? It was just a ruse?” A man poked his head out from behind a rock and called to them.

“Hey, Tennyo ... ... Tennyo!” The man cried out.

“Shut up, can't you see this is a bad time?”

“But, Tsukiko ... ...” he said pointing at Tsukiko and Hiroshi.

“Fine go ahead and meet up with them.”

“... Who is Tennyo?” Seina asked.

“Come with me, I'll explain.”

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Amane looked around Hiroshi's destroyed lab. “I thought he'd be here but there's no sign of him. The GPS says he's over ten thousand miles away... there's no way that can be right...” Amane thought about it a while and realized he might be at the place where Seina and Miki had a date.

“Hey Kiriko, do you know where Miki and Seina went on that date the other day?”

“I do but it's a secret location, you have to be registered to get in there and you have to know the way in. But I've been there before.”

“Why didn't you say so... Let's go!”

“The last time I was there was shortly after Tenchi's mother died.” Kiriko remembered that day and began to explain Kiyone's death to Amane.

“I felt it was my fault that Kiyone passed away ... ... she died in my house ... ... I sat down in the corner of the room and trembled when I saw her deep blue face, I felt like I was about to die of shock ... ... Because I was still a child, I didn't know what to do ... ... “

She remembered that during the wake, Tenchi went missing. They found him with Kiyone's parasol, under the shrine that Ryoko was sealed in. She reflected on the past for a moment before regaining her composure.

“Anyways, that was so long ago that I don't know how to get in. But that place was originally Minaho's secret place and Airi was the one who taught her how to get in. We're going to have to have her show us how to get in.” They called Airi but couldn't reach her.

“Where is she?” They launched a monitor that showed her location. “Oh ... I know where she is.” Kiriko said.

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SHIN TENCHI MUYO! RYO-OHKI GAIDEN
真・天地無用！魎皇鬼外伝
天地無用！GXP 5
TENCHI MUYO! GXP 5
“…Tenchi-senpai’s older sister?”
The differences between Tennyo and Kiyone, as far as could be seen through old photos and vague memories, was their hairstyle alone. They were the same in every other way.

“So, you're ... ... Tenchi senpai's older sister?” Seina was staring at Tennyo's face. The difference between Tennyo and Kiyone was at best, only a hairstyle difference judging from his vague memories and old photos. Other than that, it was like she was right there.

”Yes, my real name is Tennyo Masaki. But you've actually met me before.”

“Huh?”

“Me and mom used to switch places with each other when she had to take care of other things .... I used to play with you and feed you and even give you baths.”

“... ... I didn't notice at all, why did you do such a thing?”

“I'm eighty years old this year,”

“Oh ..... Oh, that's right, that's pretty normal here...” Seina remembered when he heard that he could live to be about 2,000 years old.

“People on Earth would recognize me but thankfully I looked like my mom, so I just took her place, but then she died... so I had to leave... I couldn't do anything to help Tenchi... it was annoying. But then Tenchi woke up Ryoko, so I went with Noike to surprise him. I figured the shock of having a sister would outweigh the shock of suddenly having a fiancé.”

“Wait, Noike is Tenchi-senpai's fiancé!?”

“Seto decided it.”

“..... Oh, that sounds about right... I should have figured.”

“Anyways, I went and surprised Tenchi, and he had a reaction much like yours but then my father went and ruined it ... .” Tennyo was laughing as she talked about her mischief, but she suddenly stiffened.

“That idiot father of mine... He is such a perv, how the heck is someone like Rea going to marry someone like him.”

“But wait, doesn't Nobuyuki live in Kurashiki? Is he an alien too? He seems so normal.”

“Oh no, he is definitely a Masaki ... this year he will be uhmm ... I don't remember exactly but he's over one hundred twenty years old.”

“Oh!”

“My father is rare among our people. He has never left the Earth, the people who live in the village are mostly people who came back because they liked the Earth and children who don't know they are aliens. Usually they work in agriculture to facilitate trade or doing clerical work for the GP.... only Dad has a regular old Earth job.”

“One hundred twenty years? ... How has no one noticed?”

“Only Masaki's live in our village, and it's pretty isolated geographically. In the old days, information traveled much slower, so no one had really anything to suspect, but after the war things have slowly become harder to conceal .....” Tennyo noticed Seina had a foggy look in his eyes.

“What's wrong?”

“So... Aunt Kiyone... really is dead after all.”

“Oh ... oh! Yes ... I'm afraid so ... I am sorry for the misunderstanding. But I'm really happy to see you again Seina, I never thought I'd be able to meet you again in this form.” That said, Tennyo hugged Seina strongly. “For me, you are the same as Tenchi, my cute younger brother ... ... oh!” Suddenly Tennyo pulled away from Seina.

“... ... Please don't misunderstand, but it was actually mother who used to do all those strange things to you, not me.”

“Huh ... ... so she was the one who scribbled on my forehead when I was in the hospital?”

“Yeah! Also, she also used to scribble on Tenchi's picture books”

“Oh, that's ... ... I thought it was strange, Tenchi-senpai wasn't the kind of person who did that sort of thing.”

“Well she was Airi's daughter after all...When I first came up into space, I managed to scare quite a few people she used to tease back in the day. A few even ran away. It's a shame, I was hoping they would tell me cool things about my mother.”

“I wonder what she did to them...”

“Who knows, but it's been a while since I came to space and since then I've gotten to know a lot of people all on my own, how about you Seina?”

“... ... I have also met many people” Airi, Mitoto, Onnainin, Seto, Minaho and Hakuren’s team, Amane and Erma and Kiriko were here too. Of course, and people like the Space Pirates and Seiryo who were not so fun to meet... and Miki and Hiroshi. “... But, it's because of me that ...”

“Oh Seina, you don't believe you had anything to do with that do you?” Tennyo pulled Seina close and gazed at him.

“!” It was the same as the face Kiyone made when she really got angry, he remembered only seeing it when Tenchi and Seina did something dangerous.

“I don't ever want to hear you say something like that ever again, no matter what!” These were words Seina needed to hear.

“You're going to stay here, right?

“Yeah!” Seina hugged Tennyo. She smiled, it felt like he was with Kiyone again.

“... I'll do my best” Seina replied as he began to cry.

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From the Juraian mansion on the opposite side bank many people were watching the scene between Tennyo and Seina.

“Seto, please stop this. You are unbelievable! HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING! Stop!” Airi said.

Minaho gave an odd glance to Seto and Hakuren's group. They took out binoculars while standing at the window. Seto sat in a chair and watched with glee.

“It's too bad Airi objected to this, she's missing a wonderful performance.” Seto looked crankily at Airi who she had sewn like a caterpillar in a cocoon to the corner wall.

A while later Erma, Kiriko, and Amane warped in.

“Oh, it looks like we have a customer,” Seto said, Hakuren stopped spying and got up to greet the ‘customers’.

The next moment, Kiriko, Amane and Erma, barged in. “Minaho-sama ... ... are you spying on Seina?” Minaho was embarrassed, Hakuren bowed.

“I can understand why you're here Kiriko ... but why is Erma?”

“I got an emergency call from Airi-sama telling me to come here ...”

“Well you're kind of late.” Seto lowered her binoculars and turned towards Kiriko.

“Oh, Lady Seto!” Kiriko finally noticed Seto was there and quickly saluted.

When she was satisfied with her presence being acknowledged, she once again turned to look with her binoculars.

“Hey Kiriko-chan,” Minaho pointed to Airi who thrashing, trying to get unstuck from the wall. Minaho was smiling at the sight.

Kiriko and Amane, understood what was going on.

“Oh my! Things sure are getting exciting.” Seto said. A few seconds later the two girls had joined in watching Seina like a hawk from the balcony.

“Um ... ... Ms. Minaho. I understand why Airi-san sent an SOS call, but what exactly is going on ...”

Airi squirmed and made muffled screams for help at Erma, who was at a loss as to whether she should help or not. “Wow ~ ~, Wu ~ ~ ~Wu ~ ~ ~!” Airi appealed to Erma with puppy dog eyes to help.

“Actually ...” Minaho turned away from Airi and pulled Erma close, and began to explain things. A few minutes later, the number of women on the balcony increased by one, a total of eight women were now standing side by side in a row.

“UWuwuwwu~~~~!” Airi, abandoned by both her daughter and her secretary, began to bite her bindings like a caterpillar. But her resistance was pointless, so Seto and everyone else remained focused on the spectacle going on the other in the distance.

“... .... Kiriko ... who is that woman?” Amane asked while watching. She and Erma put down their binoculars and looked at Kiriko.

“That's Tennyo ... ... Tenchi's older sister.”

“Sister? ..... Are you sure? I remember Mihoshi telling me he was the only child.” Kiriko remained silent and did not answer Amane's question.

It was Seto who answered her instead. “Tennyo and Tenchi have an age difference of more than 60 years. He was only recently informed that he had a sister.”

“Oh ... ... that makes sense. I guess that would be impossible on Earth. But why is she so chummy with Seina?”

“She looks exactly like her mother, Kiyone ... ... and in the past, sometimes she switched places with her and looked after Tenchi-chan and Seina-chan.”

Erma and Hakuren who were satisfied by Seto's explanation picked up their binoculars again.

“I see ... ... so that's why Seina looks so happy.” Amane's tone contained feelings somewhat similar to loneliness and jealousy. The expression that Seina was showing to Tennyo was something he had never even shown to Kiriko, but it was a feeling that a child shows to his mother, and it wasn't something he would show to Kiriko or Amane.

In other words, it was a look they would never know. Not only Amane, but everyone there was feeling the same feelings in response to seeing that. Minaho, who was looking at them all watching Seina, looked at them disapprovingly. But she was glad that there was no one trying to disturb Seina and Tennyo.

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Kenneth and Rajau had lunch on the floating island where they had lunch with Miki.

“In the end, I couldn't make myself leave the GP Academy, how about you, Kenneth?”

“..... I'm being punished for a week.”

“You and everyone else who went in the line that wanted revenge. You should have realized that was a test.”

“But ... ... I figured if we spoke to Seto she might help.”

“But we don't even know how to use a ship like that, we don't know how to investigate things yet... what were you thinking?”

“I figured maybe once I got there everything would just fall into place. I wasn't thinking.”

“You know Seina's probably been thinking about things like this for a long time because of his biased probability.”

“... I didn’t think of that. I was really mean to him.”

“I'm glad you realize that, you should apologize.” As he said that, Rajau got up quickly.

“You're right ... but before that I got to eat.”

“Come to think of it, it seems that the meal management program will be starting up sometime tomorrow.”

“So today is the last day for us to eat our favorite things?”

“But the things you eat are mostly within the scope of the program.”

“Almost, but not all! We must go Rajau! Today we must buy everything we like and party.” Kenneth got up quickly and began to run toward the transfer port.

*** * * Erma Spoiler commentary:**

I feel that you should know already going into this that Erma is Ryoko Balta. If you don't then... you haven't seen the anime or picked up on the obvious hints.

This is a prime example her lying as Erma to Seina. She didn't end the lease on a place she lived on Airi's ship. Her place is sparsely filled because Erma isn't a real person.

Her reaction to this next situation shouldn't only be thought of in terms of Erma's feelings but also in terms of Ryoko's. * * *

Chapter Two: Hope and Peace

Hiroshi was brought by Tsukiko to one of Airi's tens of thousands of studios. Even Hiroshi, who had a doctorate in the academy, had never seen a research facility as advanced as hers. But in the midst of being awed by it, he immediately recognized some important things.

"…… This is?" It was an NB that had been brought into the workshop when it changed into a female form.

"Seina's NB."

"Seina's? ... . No way, Miki!?" Hiroshi ran to the NB and looked at it. It looked like a rough engraved sculpture, so it was hard to identify, but Hiroshi sensed Miki in there.

"Hold on, I'll explain everything." The man who was with Tennyo earlier ran in from a nearby passage wearing a lab coat.

"I'm sorry for being late." The stubble faced man grasped Hiroshi's hand gladly. "Nice to meet you, I am Hakuryo Masaki. I am deeply moved to meet the inventor of an Astral AI."

"Ha, ... well it was only a coincidence really ... ..."

"But even so ..."

"Please save the small talk and explain what's going on with NB."

"Oh, I'm sorry, I'm just very into AI ..." Hakuryo looked embarrassed.

"Well, as you can see it was made of a special bio-metal ..."

"It's a big deal, I've seen this stuff used in a few porn videos ..."said Hiroshi remembering them.

"Oh yeah, that one with the..."

"Just continue the explanation." Tsukiko yelled.

Hakuryo and Hiroshi started to speak in a low voice as if to keep their discussion a secret, they distanced themselves from Tsukiko.

"As you know, this NB can change forms. It did this in response to a forced data stream that NB received earlier ....."

"Forced data transfer ... ... Then maybe she's alive!"

"This is just a guess, but Tarrant probably noticed that Miki was a Pinocchio, he must have thought that it was a trap and investigated her AI."

"So, he uploaded Miki's character data for investigation, so her astral might be in there?"

“Yes, she seems to have tried to move to NB via a transmission from Tarrant's ship's computer, but unfortunately the data transfer failed.”

“Was the line blocked?”

“I think that was probably the main cause, but it seems that NB also refused.”

“Refused? But her character data isn't that large of a file...”

The Character data of one person is not a large amount compared to the capacity of the NB. It was hard to think that an NB made by Airi would have too low of a capacity to hold such a thing.

“Actually, it was because NB already had a personality in it with an astral.”

“Is that ...? ... ... so ... Miki ... ...” Hiroshi slowly dropped his shoulders, but immediately rose up, “But Miki is alive!” He had hopeful eyes. Tsukiko who was concerned about Hiroshi's disappointment smiled a smile of relief.

“Yeah ... Although she failed to transfer her character data, it looks like there was some information left by her ... ... But Hiroshi, I don't know how to say this to you ...”

“Miki's survival is not definite right now, but at least there's hope, but it's much better than despairing ... Thank you, Tsukiko-san, thank you.”

“Hiroshi, you ...”

“It's okay! She’s a strong girl, and she has a good head on her shoulders... after all I modeled her after you, Tsukiko.”

“Well, anyways, what I was going to say is, we need your help. The data she left is encrypted, we don't have the password.” Tsukiko said, pointing to the research space prepared for Hiroshi.

“Oh, and ... ... NB's Astral AI seems to want to talk to you Hiroshi.”

“Oh, with me ... ... Oh, I understand.”

“When you visit her, you'll be amazed. Please get ready. Hurry Hiroshi! You too!” Tsukiko grabbed Hiroshi by the neck and sat him down into the chair that was nearby.

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The scar on Seina's heart was not healed by the reunion with Tennyo, but it was like a doctor slowly bandaged his wound and it was beginning to heal. But that didn't mean he forgot about Miki. “..... I'm going to be in the GP so I should try not to regret not being able to protect everyone..... For Miki Senpai, I'll do my best,” Seina, who came back to the dormitory, swore to himself.

Kenneth and Rajau, spotted Seina and quickly ran towards him.

“Oh, Kenneth, Rajau .....” Seina noticed the two, and took a deep bow.

“I'm sorry about what I said this morning ... ...”

“It's fine.”

Kenneth and Rajau, suddenly started to embrace Seina. However, they were not looking where they were standing, and they were caught up a stampede of animals that came from the forest.

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“Are both of you are OK?” Despite getting caught up in the stampede, Seina was completely uninjured. He looked fine compared to Kenneth and Rajau.

“It's all right! It's nothing compared to those Clay drone ink bullets!”

“That's right!” Kenneth and Rajau's face seemed happy as they got up and held Seina again. They ran into the dormitory building. When they arrived at the dormitory, they came in front of a big bulletin board. “Come on Seina. Let’s see what it says!”

“Is this ... . A room change?” On the bulletin was a notice that the freshman students’ rooms were being changed.

“Since this dormitory is a quite old and historical building, it's been designated as a historical site, and it was decided that they would carry out renovations on it when the sophomore's ended their practical training.”

“.....” Seina looked at it blankly, but Kenneth and Rajau were excited. He didn't get why they were excited.

Kenneth pointed happily at a section that looked like a small island, cut off from the other rooms. “Ha ha ha! This is a prime location, close to dining halls and the large public bath facilities, and everything else.”

Kenneth and Rajau once again grabbed Seina and ran into the back of the building with another bulletin board. Because of Kenneth's excitement, Seina hadn't noticed how loud the chatter in the building was.

“Is there something going on?”

“If you look, you'll understand!”

Every one of the first-year students gathered there, and they were excited, they were watching something. However, Seina did not see what it was there in too many people in the way.

“Seina, here we are.” Kenneth pulled Seina and went over to a gate installed with a guarded fence. On it was written “Off limits except for officials.”

“Kenneth, it says entry is prohibited except for officials!”

Kenneth forcibly pulled Seina, and then Rajau pushed him from behind. “It's okay, we are officials.” They proudly said at the same time

“Ah, there's Seina!” When one of the students said that, all of them started gazing towards Seina, all at the same time.

“Shit! What a lucky guy! I'm jealous!”

“Why is it only Seina's group that gets to live there?”

“Come on!” Kenneth and Rajau pulled Seina and walked backward while waving with cheesy smiles to their classmates who yelled at them.

Women came out who worked in the back, they were dressed as researchers they turned to Seina, “Oh, I'm sorry for the inconvenience please come back this way.”

“Oh no. it's no inconvenience at all.”

“Thank you ladies very much, I’m sure your job is hard work.” said Kenneth and Rajau who followed happily while dragging Seina.

“Oh so you’re the rumored Seina Yamada. Nice to meet you, I am Hakuren.” There was Hakuren in a researcher's lab coat, her, Karen, Suiren and Gyokuren smiled at Seina.

(I should've expected something like this)

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“It's quite wide, isn't it? It's supposed to be a brand-new unit.” Seina's room was a very large room and the living room made of timber was very luxurious. Nonetheless, for Seina, who lived in Amane's mansion, it seemed quite narrow and plain. His room at Amane's house was too wide, so Seina placed furniture in a space of about six tatami mats in it. However, in the six-tatami wide room surrounded by walls it felt oppressive.

”Well, yeah ... that's right.”

“Kenneth, even if it's a new model, there's not much difference with it so far from a functional point of view, so it is reasonable to say that this is just a new standard.”

“New standard?”

“Well, The GP is how it is because it was formed from the military, they didn't place much emphasis on living comfort, but recently due to the expansion of our home delivery services and population increase due to the expansion of the residential planet area, the scale of the GP itself has been expanded. In other words, they can't do business if they don't use people who are highly skilled. So think of it as them bribing us..... “

“Rajau, that's a troublesome explanation, think of it in other words, like its food for new recruits, but it's more than that, Seina! You saw it, they have beautiful ~ ~, women... like her!” Kenneth said.

“Well, yeah ... well ... uhm,” Seina replied to Kenneth in a puzzled manner.

“Hey, what's up with that kind of response? You rarely get to see such beautiful women! Or is it something else? I know you always get to look at Professor Amane, but don't you think it's awesome?”

“Who needs Amane, Gyokuren is just as beautiful ... ...”

“That's right! But in a completely contrasting way.”

“I wonder where they got such beautiful girls from, they're not people from the academy, and they’re probably from some laboratory.”

“I know we can make use of this lucky situation better than that.”

“I agree.”

“Lucky situation?” Seina made a mysterious murmur. He understood what Kenneth thought. But just responded to the word lucky with a sense of incongruity.

“We are currently in an area where general students can't enter, and the area is great, in the immediate neighborhood of our building is the residential facility for our staff! How can you call that anything other than lucky? “

(It is more intentional than lucky ... ... and blatant too.) Seina thought of Kiriko's face if she knew about this.

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Kiriko confronted Seto in the Juraian mansion near the secret lake, ten thousand kilometers away, that Miki had shown Seina. “This is just too blatant!” Kiriko complained to Seto about Hakuren's group's assignment. “Dispatching them as maids was bad enough this time is practically a joke. Researchers?! And they’re only assigned to Seina's team, too!”

“Well I can't send a maid to a male student dormitory at the GP, now can I?”

“There are other ways to escort him in secrecy!”

“It's already pretty crowded over there. Around Seina, a lot of people are hiding in the congested traffic of the daily commuting rush.”

“Well then you should have them guard him from afar!”

“Like we did with him and Tennyo?”

“!!” As soon she heard this phrase, Kiriko was shocked and stiffened like someone caught committing a crime.

“We were just lucky that this time it was someone from our family he encountered ...” Seto said that calmly in front of Kiriko who seemed like she was about to cry.

“I don't know why you’re so upset about it, but as for how they guard Seina, the scene is flexible. Their orders aren't set in stone.” Stimulated by Seto's words, Kiriko's expression changed.

“Sometimes it's better to let everyone air their anger or sadness, there are cases where it's better not to give them the time to think about it.” Seto said in response to Kiriko who was lost in thought over the situation with Miki.

“I know you don't feel sad about Miki, but you hate seeing Seina upset like this.” Seto told Kiriko. “I don't know why you’re so worried now, you have the romantic advantage over Seina again ...”

“I don't know what you’re talking about, I don't like him like that!”

“Oh ~ ~ Ho ho ho! Hakuren-chan isn't your only enemy,” Seto laughed. “At this rate you’re just about as likely to lose him to Minaho-chan!”

“With the way you keep me busy, I doubt it.” Minaho chimed in she came closer to Kiriko and blocked Seto's line of sight.

“You know she's only picking on you because you’re making such strange faces.”

“... ... ... If anything, she should be showing that kind of face to Seina not to me. Hey Minaho, get out of the way!”

“It's time for us to go!” Minaho said to her in a cold tone. She began to pull Seto by the collar without mercy towards the door.

“But I want to stay and have some more fun!”

“You’ve already enjoyed this situation enough.” Minaho's tone was quiet but there was a feeling of intimidation in her voice.

“Hey Minaho, just give me five more minutes.”

“Stop resisting.”

“OK, what about three minutes ... ...” Seto's weak voice begged as she was dragged into the other room.

“Was she just pulling Seto-sama out of here by the neck?” Amane said, coming in with Erma to replace the two.

“She's treating her just like Airi.”

“It's amazing to see such a sight.”

“Oh yeah ..... speaking of that, what's up with you Kiriko, are you still depressed?” Amane sat beside Kiriko and nudged her shoulder somewhat roughly.

“What's important is that Seina gets back to normal, right? Even though meeting Tennyo seems to have gotten him on the right track, it still hasn't solved the problem. I'm sure there are plenty of things we can still do ... Well, as for those maids of ours, that's another story, isn't it?” Amane said as she smiled.

Kiriko looked at Amane, sighed and gave a wry smile. “Certainly, there are cases where it's better not to give them the time to think about such things.”

“So ... Kiriko, what are you going to do specifically?”

“... Well ... for the time being, I have a pretty good idea.”

“Oh, I wonder if you could tell me.”

“Ok,” she whispered to Amane.

“Oh, that's right! This is the perfect time for that!”

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Seina was starting to feel a sense of discomfort with Kenneth and Rajau who had seemingly forgotten about mourning over Miki. (Kenneth has a lighthearted personality but he is quite naive, but Rajau is more serious than this usually ... ...)

They had a totally different atmosphere from the heavy feeling one of this morning. Kenneth's enthusiasm was unnaturally high. The incident with Miki was very shocking to Seina. Fortunately, by reuniting with Tennyo, he had regained some sense of direction, and Seina was able to recover. But ..., (……Oh, I see) at that time, Seina noticed that Kenneth was desperately trying to find something that could help them forget the situation.

Seina's team and Miki's team got along well even though it was only for a short period. Kenneth's relationship was not yet serious with Miranda and Rajau with Caliche, but they started to like each other. However, they were directly connected to Miki's case. That's why they felt that they wanted to forget it and put it behind them. Indeed, as a way to forget Miranda and Caliche, they were trying to get absorbed in other women.

Seina remembered the admiration he had for Kiriko, which he had been holding on to for more than 10 years and how he felt when she was far away.

“... ... So Seina, should we invite them to go on a date”

“Uhm... yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah! Wait, what now?”

“Apparently they don't seem to be staff from the Academy, and fortunately, they seem to be interested in you.”

“If so, we can make up an excuse to guide them through Academy, they will probably say yes to that.”

“And with Seina's abundant finances, we can show them one heck of a good time too.”

“Finances? I have no money... oh ...!” Seina remembered the money he had to buy food that he had when he first came to the dormitory. (Oh, right, I haven't even touched that ... since I was at Amane's house, I've had everything taken care of for me... ....) With the funds in Seina's account, they could have gone on a pretty fancy date. But they were going to ask out Seto's female officers. (It's going to be hard to beat the hospitality inside that ship, I have compared and examined on the internet some of the things I had there, ... the same dinner I had there would cost almost all my savings ... and that “Shinju sake”, or well, in my case it was a juice .... is more than a thousand times what I have ... ...) Of course, he was sure Hakuren wouldn't care about how expensive the date was but he wasn't so sure about Gyokuren.

“That's a perfect idea, Kenneth!”

“Ha ha ha! Good! Then soon we will carry out our strategy!”

(Well, if I can distract Kenneth from his feelings with my savings, I guess it’s okay. I wonder if chicken is within our budget.) Seina thought while watching Kenneth's happy face. But Kenneth's plan was never put into practice.

A monitor came up before them. “Do you have Yamada Seina with you?” The dormitory staff asked.

Seina stood and saluted before the monitor.

“Seina Yamada, this is urgent, come to Amane Kaunaq and Masaki Kiriko's office immediately.”

“Yes sir.” Seina went to their classroom where he was told he would be getting his second round of bio-enhancement immediately.

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Later, as Seina was sleeping, Hiroshi visited Kirche in the VR world in which she lived inside of NB. To be exact, his subconscious mind was uploaded there as he slept. An alarm clock began to sound. It was a signal that Seina's body had fallen asleep. An avatar of Seina's sleeping self arrived

in the VR world. As usual, as Kirche waited for Seina by his bed. She would wake him soon and be with him in the VR world as he dreamed.

“What is this ...?” Miki's father, Hiroshi, was sitting opposite of Kirche, Hiroshi looked around and looked at Seina's face. The alarm stopped.

“I hope you don't mind.” Kirche started talking about Miki's personal data transfer, which happened this morning. It was a momentary event. Miki's physical data began to appear suddenly in front of Kirsch's eyes.

“... .... Kirche, why did you ask me here ... ...?” They kept on with their conversation.

“I wanted to show you this!” Miki who had failed to transfer left a letter with Kirche and disappeared. “……it's my fault” The NB could support two astrals at once, but Kirche had rejected Miki's attempt to move in because she didn't know her.

“It’s ok, don't blame yourself, this isn't your fault.” Hiroshi said while taking Miki's letter. “Judging from the transfer log, the transfer was incomplete anyways, there was a high possibility that the connection was lost in the middle.”

“But ...”

“You know that Miki is a Pinocchio, Miki is still out there somewhere... It's ok. It was an event that you didn't anticipate, it's natural you were confused. Nevertheless, without you we wouldn't have been able to receive this letter. There is a high possibility that even this would have disappeared. Thank you very much.” Hiroshi bowed his head deeply towards Kirche.

“... What do you think of me?”

“What do you mean ...?”

“What do you think about me running away from my father, to live in such a place ... regardless of his intentions, I'm forced to stay in this place ...” Kirche said with a puzzled look.

Previously, she had asked this of Airi. However, she wanted to ask someone who had built an AI like her and Hiroshi was Miki's maker. Hiroshi, understood her intentions.

“..... Who cares where you live in this world as long as you're living in it.” He said smoothly with an ordinary tone.

“Huh?”

“That is to say, you’re a celebrity, you have a job supporting yourself. You can afford to do whatever you want ... ... Your creator is just another person, an ordinary adult. But you’re an Astral AI. You've still got a lot of living to do. Your life has just started. Even so, you've already become an idol. I think you should be more confident in yourself.”

“……I……” Tears came out of Kirche's eyes. But they were tears of joy, not sorrow. Kirche wasn't confident that she was her own person. She had trouble erasing the thought that her creator owned her. Kirche looked around Seina's bedroom.

“You're not alone, Airi supports your decision 100% and is completely fine with you staying here. You know the consciousness of Seina here affects him in the real world and right now Seina is very mentally injured. “

“Can I heal Seina?” Kirsch asked, Hiroshi smiled and nodded.

“As a man, I'm envious of Seina and all the attractive women like you who surround him. But, as Miki's father, I have mixed feelings in knowing that she has such a strong rival for Seina's affection.”

“I think Miki is safe, don't you?”

“Of course.”

“If there is something you need help with just let me know and I'll help.”

“Thank you ..... I know it's soon, but can I ask for one now?”

“Sure.”

“Will you change NB back to normal?”

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Hiroshi regained consciousness as Tsukiko and Hakuryo observed him. He got up quickly and looked at the NB. It had returned to its original sphere shape.

“Well, I got the necessary information. Hakuryo can you come help me, please? I want to get this decrypted as quickly as possible.” Hiroshi then headed for his research space and Hakuryo followed him.

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Kirche was thinking to herself while looking at the sofa where Hiroshi was earlier. (I can heal Seina's heart.) Just thinking about it made her excited. Even if Seina's couldn't see her in the real world, she was glad that she realized that she could do something for Seina.

Kirche hurried to the kitchen, she made sure that the dishes she made for Seina were ready and took a big deep breath, and went into Seina's bedroom. She didn't want to wake him up, so she snuck in slowly and quietly and went into the dim room where the curtains were closed. On the full-size bed in the center of the room she saw Seina fast asleep. Kirche came up to the edge of the bed and gently reached for Seina, and began rocking his body. “Seina, Seina”

As usual Seina woke up to Kirche's voice.

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The next morning.

In Seina's room in Amane's penthouse, the four girls of Hakuren's group were wearing maid dresses and Kiriko were preparing breakfast in the same way as usual.

“Kiriko-sama, you sure are smothering poor Seina.” Gyokuren glared at Kiriko wiping the table.

“Seto-sama's orders where ridiculous.”

“We just wanted Seina to get better, it was purely in his best interest.”

“Well then it doesn't matter where he does that then, now does it!?”

Aside from that commotion, Seina was communicating with Kenneth behind a Privacy Wall. (Kenneth, are you alright? When I woke up I was back in Amane's house) he said confusedly to Kenneth.

“Oh Seina, good morning. How is your physical condition?”

“Good morning Rajau. There's nothing wrong with my body ... well nothing more than usual ... I hope you don't mind me moving out.”

“We don't mind.”

“Huh?”

“Actually, I heard from Miranda and Caliche yesterday,”

“Oh Miki-senpai's classmates?”

“Yeah, we wanted to hang out but we didn't want to bum you out.”

“Oh, by the way, when they called you, Hakuren and the others all left too...” Kenneth was sad to see them go but was happy that Miranda and Caliche had gotten in touch with them.

Seina decided not to tell him that Hakuren's people had come with him to Amane's. Amane called Seina from outside the privacy wall.

“Are you going to stay in there all day? Hurry up breakfast is going to get cold.” Although it had been more than a month since he began living with Amane, Amane's beauty still had such power that it pulled on one's spirit and hypnotized Seina. Her beauty and tone were just like the dance of Uzume to Seina and he was Amaterasu. He was lured out of the cave of Iwato that was his privacy wall.

“Ok, I'm coming right now!” Seina said cheerfully and he lowered the privacy wall and hurried over to Amane.

“Oh, you finally came out, did you sleep well last night. Is there anything wrong with your body?”

“No, I'm in good shape, I slept very well, and I feel great.”

“Well, then sit down and eat!” Kiriko placed Miso soup in front of him and sat next to Amane. The table surrounded by Amane, Erma, Hakuren, Gyokuren, Karen, Suiren, invited Seina warmly like the light of sunny days.

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In contrast to that...

In a dimly lit room where test tubes and flasks were the only thing that glistened with light, there were devices like torture devices and various meters. In a laboratory that seemed to come out of a gothic horror movie from Earth, a person in white lab clothes was up to no good.

In a glowing glass tube, sparks of light discharged, it was Airi and she had bandages wrapped all over her face and had a crazy look in her eyes. “Huhuhuhu ... ... Come now, my servant, let's have a party.”

Seina's NB floated in front of Airi's eerily laughing face. Several light spots began to appear one after another in that tube.

“Ahahahaha ~ ~! I'll show them, I'll show them all ~~~ ... oh? Huh?” The lights came on to reveal it was just Airi's office.

“Good morning! I hope you don't mind that we’re here early for work today.” Airi's secretaries said, coming in.

Airi stiffened. “Why did you have to disturb me? I was having a moment!” She said while unwrapping the bandages and taking off the white coat. It was perfect for the atmosphere of her laboratory, but it looked dumb and severely out of place in her office.

“Anyway, why are you interrupting me for no good reason?” Airi shouted in embarrassment as one of the secretaries went to their desk and launched a monitor. “Hey ..... Don't ignore me!” “I'll get started on my work for the day soon.”

However, the secretaries were completely ignoring Airi and were quickly absorbed in their work.

“I'll begin my work soon too.”

“……Hey you. Why did you interrupt my moment?”

“I'll begin my work soon as well.”

“……ughhhhhhhhh”

“……Hey you. Why did you interrupt my moment?”

“I'll begin my work soon.”

“……that's not what I asked”

“I'll begin my work soon.”

“……Hey you. Why did you interrupt my moment?”

“I'll begin my work soon.”

“……that's what the other one said”

“……Hey you. Why did you interrupt my moment?”

“I'll begin my work soon.”

“Fine get started! I hate you! I hate everyone!” Airi headed for her seat crying.

That day, Seina had a communication class as usual in his room.

“Well then see you tomorrow.”

“Yeah, see you soon.” When the class was over, Seina briefly talked with Kenneth and Rajau and turned off the monitor.

Suiren, knocked and came in with a box made of paulownia wood. “Excuse me, I have a delivery for you Seina ... .” Suiren gently placed the paulownia box on the small coffee table next to Seina.

“Oh, thank you ... . Oh, is this?” Seina, was familiar with the box.

“Yes, it was delivered earlier from Airi-san's studio.”

“Oh, I guess they fixed it ...” When Seina began to remove the seal on the paulownia box, he was puzzled as to whether to open the lid or not.

“Huh? What's the matter?”

“Oh... nothing ... ... I'm just not prepared for it to start talking to me in Airi's voice again ...”

“Oh ... ... That's right” Suiren smiled a little and laughed.

“You’re laughing?” Seina was as a bit surprised.

“... ... Is that so strange?”

“It's not a strange thing to do ... But it's strange for you ... I’ve never seen you smile Suiren ..... your face is always so expressionless; this is the first time I've seen you make such a face... ...”

Suiren was always quiet and had few facial expression changes compared to the other maids. Hakuren was very intellectual and took the role of leader a lot. Karen was always very active and tomboyish. Gyokuren had a beautiful appearance comparable to Amane mixed with a dangerous atmosphere.

Among them, Suiren was very quiet, if she stood silently, she had a presence like a mannequin or a doll ... no, less presence than that. So today, Seina was seeing Suiren express herself for the first time.

(Suiren is the only one among the four that wears glasses ... ... but it feels more like she does it to seem cute rather than intellectual) Seina thought while looking at her. (But, indeed, she is also quite a beautiful person ... ...)

"... Seina, you shouldn't stare at me like that. It's rude." Suiren suddenly blushed and turned away.

"Oh... oh! Sorry." Seina blushed and also turned away.

Seina was surrounded by women like Kiriko and Amane. In order to live with top models and women who were comparable in beauty to famous actresses, it was necessary to numb himself to their beauty and to shield his mind. Otherwise it would be like torture for a young man like Seina. But even with his shields up, the sight in front of him fascinated him. (Calm down ..... Calm down!) Seina desperately tried to restore the shield of his heart. When suddenly:

"Hey there, Mister! Will ya let me outta here!" The box shook vigorously as NB yelled from inside.

"Oh, sorry about that."

Suiren bowed and left the room. Seina opened the lid of the paulownia box.

"Oh, I thought I was gonna suffocate in there." NB popped out like a Jack in the box.

"Hmm... the setting seems to be the same as before." Seina looked for the place where he usually stored NB's box but he forgot where that was.

"Uhm NB, where was your box, where did I put it before? ..... NB?" Seina wondered why there was no response from NB, he looked at NB, but it wasn't there. "Where did it go?" He looked around but NB wasn't in the room and a few minutes later the first angry shout of the day was heard.

After an hour, everyone living in Amane's residence gathered in the living room and was staring at NB.

"Why were you poking around my private bathroom?"

"I just thought I'd reconfirm the layout, after all it's been a while since I've been here."

"Well then why are you peeking at people's chest and up their skirts?"

"I just following my programming young lady. My personality is set to 'Old man of a Hundred Erections'. In fact it was you Amane who originally installed it in me."

Everyone glared at Amane. But Amane smiled a fearless smile.

“Ha ha! Don't go telling lies now! OH JEEZE, that Airi is sure determined to bother us isn’t she?!”

“Name one time!” NB said.

“I can name several!”

“Mmhmm!” Everyone said at the same time.

“Airi is so immature”

“Ah! ... ... that reminds me the chief secretary told me she was acting strangely when he came into work today... ...” Erma said.

NB became transparent and disappeared suddenly.

“HEY WHERE DID IT GO?”

“Well, I guess that it has optical camouflage features now.” Amane smiled and reached out sideways grabbing the invisible NB.

“How did you find me!?”

NB appeared in Amane's hand. All of the women there had received a wide variety of advanced training. Everyone blocked off any escape route that NB had, keeping it trapped with Amane.

“Erma you know what to do with it right?”

“Roger that!” Erma jammed a debugging terminal into NB roughly.

“Oh! Oww ... ... please be more gentle with me then that ... ...”

A pattern like a circuit diagram emerged from Amane's arm and held NB in place. It was a guardian that had the power to crush NB very easily.

“Let’s see. It looks like several hundred plug-ins have been installed recently ... hmmm, let's see... ‘Old man of 100 Erections’ ..... ‘sexual harassment’, ‘peeping’, and ‘voyeurism’.”

“What the heck is the President of the Academy thinking, installing crap like that? Can you delete them all? Maybe we better revert it back to its factory default state?”

“But Amane... remember its factory default state ...”

“Oh, that’s right it has Airi-sama's voice ... Well, after installing that old man voice, it still didn't begin to have this kind of behavior, so I guess if we just delete the new plug-in software and dubious programs, there shouldn't be any more problems.”

“Roger that!” Erma began to delete the files when, “Ahh!” Suddenly Erma stopped her hand and exclaimed.

“What happened?”

“Where’s Seina's friendship folder? It's gone!”

“I erased it.”

“Why did you do that Kiriko? Are you afraid he'll think about any other girl besides than you when he ...”

“What was that!?” Kiriko glared a terrible look at Hakuren as the others were covering her mouth.

“Erma! You shouldn't bring up things like that.”

Erma pointed to the monitor to Amane with an amazed face.

“Huh what are these strange folders .....”

“Strange folders?”

“Is this someone's personal data? It looks like real data.”

“Oh, yeah, it looks interesting, let's run it for a bit.”

“Amane!”

Before Kiriko could stop them, Erma launched the data.

As soon as it started, the NB that Amane held began pulsating and began to take shape.

“Whose personal data is it exactly?”

Amane put NB on the floor and gazed it with interest.

“Oh ... ... ahhhhhhhhhh!”

NB let out a somewhat sexy voice and began deforming into a glittering doll.

“..... It looks like Amane ....”Erma said.

Amane's face formed.

Normally Personal data, even if it reproduced Amane's stellar figure, couldn't reproduce her presence or appeal.

It was just a doll without a soul. However, as NB changed into Amane, it had enough charm to put all the people there in bondage. It was like the birth of Venus.

However, the moment NB took the shape of Amane's plump breasts, Kiriko reflexively kicked NB Amane in the face. It was a kind of defensive reaction to her not wanting Seina to see such a sight. She began to punch it with tremendous momentum as it deformed like clay from her punches.

“Oh! No! Kiriko-san stop!!”

Erma panicked and stopped the program.

NB returned to its spherical shape and let out a sound as if the air was escaping a balloon, Kiriko looked down at it expressionlessly.

“Kiriko! Don't just start suddenly kicking things. You'll break it!”

“That woman. I'm going to kill her.” Kiriko said.

Kiriko turned to Erma. “Please erase it all!”

“Yes, right away!” Erma, terrified by Kiriko's murderous intent reflexively began deleting files right away.

“What a waste that was a good copy...”

“It's no joke! As far as can tell it wasn't modified from an existing AV model's file.”

“... ... … It's a shame I really want to check and see what Airi programmed that thing to do, ha ha ha.”

“Not going to lie ... ... I came a little ... ...” said Gyokuren.

Erma and Hakuren looked at her with a strange expressions. That's just how pretty Amane's data was.

“It's rare to see such work from a philosopher ... . And all of our data seems to be in here.”

“This isn't a joke ...” Kiriko yelled.

Amane covered her mouth with her hand.

“Let's vote! Those wishing to see more raise your hand!” Amane said to the others.

“Hmm ... ... that makes six people against Kiriko, Seina is a minor, he will have to leave ... Kiriko go take Seina into the other room and wait for us!” Amane removed her hand from Kiriko's mouth.

“Wait a minute!”

“What? Kiriko...you want to see it too don't you... be honest”

Kiriko looked around at everyone, except Gyokuren who hid herself from her view.

“Fine! But delete it once you're done.”

“Is everyone okay with that?”

They all nodded.

“Right well then let's hurry up and check inside.”

Kiriko took Seina and left the room.

"... ... They're like little boys taking porn to school to show their friends when no one's around ... ... Hey Seina, you have school work to do why don't you get started on it."

Seina sat down, launched a monitor and began working. Kiriko left to go check out the personal data.

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Approximately two hours later, Seina finished his work for the day. Kiriko went to check up on him and when she went back into the living room she noticed NB on the sofa.

"I deleted all the suspicious things. But I made a backup of our personal data." Erma said.

Kiriko headed to the kitchen to make dinner with Karen. And everyone except Gyokuren headed for their own room.

Everyone was still mentally exhausted, so nobody noticed the situation happening between the Seina and Gyokuren.

Seina and Gyokuren were never supposed to be alone in the same room.

"Wow this sure is something, It doesn't even have a scratch on it after that... I wonder if they uninstalled that old man voice."

Seina looked down at the NB on the sofa, with a puzzled expression.

"So...Seina... how would you like it if I put my personal data back on that NB of yours."

"Ah! What! Oh! Gyokuren, when did you get in here?"

Seina jolted up from the sofa surprised.

"You know, even though they deleted it, I think I could make you a copy of all of our personal data if you wanted. Do you think you would ever use them?" Gyokuren said, smiling

seductively at Seina. He sensed something strange, his self-defense instinct went off. He was on red alert.

“Sounds interesting but I'd rather you didn't.” Seina said. He got up and started walking away up the stairs to escape from her. But when he got up the stairs, he heard a voice like a ghost behind him coming from Gyokuren.

“Please don't be scared.”

It was her usual glossy and quiet tone, but for some reason it made Seina's heart strangely uneasy.

“Gyokuren ......?”

When Seina turned around what he saw looked like a silhouette of a back lit sunset.

Gyokuren's overwhelming beauty disappeared and it seemed that he saw her true essence. Gyokuren was standing like a child who stood as if she was abandoned and ostracized. Seina caught sight of that image of Gyokuren.

(..... She looks like I did in the past) Seina was well aware of his bad luck and of Gyokuren's beauty, but not its essence, or the suffering and loneliness it brought her. Of course there was a possibility that it was a trap of Gyokuren's, Seina had no choice but to try to shake her off and run away.

“Is there something wrong?”

Looking back at Seina, Gyokuren caressed his head strangely. Seina's expression was so serious looking that Gyokuren was caught off guard.

Seina did not answer Gyokuren's question, but he approached her and got closer than he had ever before. It was the same distance that Kiriko, Tsukiko, Kiyone and Tennyo stayed when Young Seina was sad or in pain. Of course, Gyokuren was used to people coming up close to her but this was the first time Seina had done it.

“What's wrong, Seina?”

Gyokuren was terribly confused. She suddenly had a strong urge to attack him. Because of Seina, something had been triggered in her unconscious mind where a tremendous destructive power was hidden.

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Kiriko and Karen went into the kitchen and started cooking diner.

“What's wrong with Airi, I can't believe she put such things in Seina's NB ...”

“It’s both high functioning and useless.”

“Well ... the Personal data on it was super-sophisticated, it could be used even for the highest degree of medical simulation.”

“I never heard of any personal data that could eat and excrete before.”

“Well, Airi is a philosopher so it makes since .... I bet that damn thing could even get pregnant if she wanted it to, she probably only left that out for moral reasons...”

“The clothes selection was great too wasn't it?” Karen remembered.

“Certainly, there were tremendous amounts of data from underwear to accessories.”

There was data of Kiriko inside of NB and data of everyone else too and a wide variety of costumes. One of the reasons why Kiriko took a long time to come back to the living room was because she was playing dress up with the data.

“But there is no reason Seina should have such data.”

“Especially if he's taking it around in public.”

“Yeah! I'd hate to have that data stolen.”

“ .... I think the only one of us who wouldn't mind is Gyokuren.”

“..... Wait a second.....!”

Finally Kiriko noticed that Gyokuren and Seina had been left alone in the living room together. They ran toward the living room. Karen soon noticed Kiriko's reasons for running and followed her.

(That girl! I bet she is trying to give him back our personal data.)

Kiriko, who had ran into the living room with terrible momentum, was puzzled by the strange atmosphere of the two facing each other and stopped.

“What ... ...?”

Karen covered Kiriko's mouth and held her back as she tried to approach the two.

Kiriko saw that Karen was nervous and froze.

Karen and Kiriko weren't alone in the living room. Almost at the same time, Amane, Erma, Hakuren, and Suiren also came running in. Like Karen, Hakuren and Suiren also noticed the appearance of Gyokuren and instantly froze. But the problem was Amane and Erma.

(Please don't do it!)

At that time, Karen, Hakuren, and Suiren saw Amane and prayed for her. Fortunately, Amane who had sharp intuition, instantly read Gyokuren's strange appearance and Karen's expression, and grabbed Erma and led her back out of the room. Kiriko left too.

“What's going on Karen?” Kiriko asked Karen using a special radio normally used during battle. But Karen did not reply, she and Hakuren were staring at Suiren's face. A few minutes later as Suiren looked at Gyokuren slowly, the attack impulse faded away from Gyokuren and she fainted into Seina's embrace.

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Everyone but Seina was gathered over Gyokuren's unconscious body as she laid in bed.

“What do you mean?”

“Well ... ... uhm, I thought that something like this might happen ... Gyokuren is holding a darkness in the bottom of her heart ... ... she is a complex girl, it seems to be the root of her charm.”

“Even though I have a sharp intuition like Amane, it still was able to hurt me.”

Karen pressed her left arm as she said that and sighed. There was no visible scar, but she had been hurt by Gyokuren there in the past.

“... .... Gyokuren really dislikes others getting deep into her psyche... No, dislikes may be putting it a bit wrong. It's more like something lives down there and it likes to hurt people who get close enough to see it.”

“So basically we left a child to play carefree around a landmine.”

“That's a good way to put it Amane, even for us who have known her a long time, only Karen and Seina, and one other person has ever seen it.”

“Did that person end up hurt like Karen?”

“Yes, With Seina-sama who knows what would have happened.

“I'm sorry for the inconvenience, everyone.”

“!”

Everyone was surprised by Gyokuren's voice as she got out of bed. She stared at Kiriko like a carnivore would its prey.

“But... I'm glad the cat is out of the bag.” Gyokuren smiled with a demonic appearance that was more powerful than it had ever been before.

“Gyokuren, I don't want to interview you about your past, but is Seina going to be safe with you and your condition around?” Kiriko stood up and glared back at her to resist the intimidation she was feeling. When it came to Seina she was like a mother bear.

Amane got away from Kiriko and Gyokuren, and moved to a place out of the potential damage zone.

“..... It's like watching a Godzilla battle about to go down isn't it?”

“I'll ask again, is Seina going to be Ok?”

“Well ... he's already been to the inside of my mind. I was honestly surprised when he did. I tried reflexively to kill Seina, but .....”

“!!” As soon as that was said, Kiriko's defensive instinct raged a tremendous momentum.

“... ... I will withdraw the previous statement ... It would be better to say it's like waiting to watch a shooting match between two large Mecha.” Erma said with a carefree tone.

“Hey Amane, can you two protect us if things get ugly?” the three girls asked.

“Why don't you try using NB as a shield?”

“No, don't tell them to do that. NB will be destroyed!” Erma said.

Kiriko groaned. Gyokuren suddenly broke her serious expression and laughed.

“Please calm down, Kiriko-sama, you will never have to worry about me hurting Seina due to my condition.”

“... How do you know that?”

“Because I'm not prepared or qualified to hurt people who managed to step that deep into my heart.”

Kiriko understood. She was drawn to him by his bad luck, but the strength of his heart had changed the outcome of the situation with Gyokuren just like it had with Widow. She had deep feelings for him that were close to admiration and respect. Gyokuren and Widow were like a living venom that destroyed others. But Seina's personality gave him the strength to not be poisoned by it.

(Has the darkness in Gyokuren's heart acknowledged Seina?) “Yes.” Gyokuren said as if she was reading Kiriko's mind.

“... ... ... You knew what I was thinking, alright then... Well Karen, it's getting late, let's hurry and prepare dinner...” Kiriko diverted her eyes from Gyokuren and went for the exit.

“Kiriko ... ... Do you understand what Gyokuren meant?” Amane said stopping Kiriko. “She acknowledged Seina in the deepest part in her heart.”

“So?” Kiriko stared at Amane strangely.

Kiriko insensitivity about it made sense to Amane because it was the most obvious thing in the world to her and all she cared about was whether Gyokuren hurt Seina or not. As the matter was settled, her vigilance toward Gyokuren had diminished.

“How do you not understand when I say this? He is the first person of the opposite sex that I have allowed to enter the bottom of my heart.”

“What? ... ... ah!” Kiriko finally realized what it meant, with astonishment, and looked at Gyokuren again.

The power that Seina accumulated since childhood attracted only troublesome women. That was also part of Seina's bad luck.

“Shit...” of all the girls here who was a challenger for Seina's affection, Kiriko thought Gyokuren was the biggest threat in the beauty department.

“Gyokuren!”

Thus again the giant Mecha fight broke out again.

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“ ... I'm soooooo hungry. ... ...”

At that time, in the living room, Seina was holding onto a sofa a cushion as he endured his hunger.

× × ×

“Oh my...”

In Washu's lab, Seto was reading the report on the incident that Minaho had given her with interest as she drank tea.

Washu came out of door with Noike supporting her by the shoulder.

“How is the Astral Link going Washu-chan?”

“I just finished the transition to the core.” Washu, who sat on a big cushion smiled at Seto.

Her left shoulder had changed into the same type of crystal as the hull of Ryo-Ohki, in which the fetus like body of a bean sized animal was sealed.

* * * **Translators’ note: By the way, remember the box art for Washu for OVA 3? Google Tenchi OVA 3, Episode 5 DVD. Look at her shoulder...**

That was depicting this scene. And this scene can safely be said to happen right after Nobuyuki's wedding in OVA 4. * * *

“Speaking of Seina, he sure is having a hard time lately, I don’t like it.”

“Aren't you interested in why women keep being drawn to him?”

“I've tried to find that out but I don't have any solid answers yet, do you?”

“I'm surprised ... To be honest, it's quite interesting that Seina's probability bias is managing to attract people so much ... ... I should've made him my guinea pig while he was here on Earth.” Washu grinned holding her fists up in a chaotic manner.

“This is a report that just came in earlier.” Seto moved the monitor plate she was reading in front of Washu's eyes.

It was about what happened with Gyokuren.

“...? ..... Uhuhuhuh, what a splendid encounter, but as I expected, it seems that everything worked out smoothly.” Washu finished checking and roughly poked the monitor plate with her little finger. The monitor plate stopped in front of Noike this time.

“Oh! ..... Gyokuren and ... ... Kiriko seem to be giving him quite a hard time.” Noike stared at Seto knowing full well Seto was to blame for this.

Noike was also Seto's daughter and like Minaho, whom she felt was like her older sister, she understood how tiring it was to deal with Seto's shenanigans. Especially because she had to deal with Mihoshi's on a daily basis.

The two would often meet up with food and alcohol in each other’s private rooms several times a year just to vent their daily frustrations.

Washu saw a glimpse of Seto. Seto who noticed it smiled back.

“Hahaha ..... Hey Seto, if you want I can check on things again?”

“Did you find out something about the astral link?”

“That's a secret.”

“Sorry, Ms. Goddess.”

“I think it is unnecessary to worry about because there is almost no possibility, but ... well what do you think about adopting Kiriko?”

Washu noticed Noike's reaction. Noike was sent in order to keep an eye on Tenchi's house which had quite a concentration of military power and it seemed like she was suggesting that might happen with Seina.

“Indeed ... ... That would be interesting”

“I thought you would say that, I think this daughter of mine is going to be made into a different concept from Ryo-Ohki. All I can say is ... well ... look forward to it.”

When Washu said that, there was a sound of the bell attached to the door leading to the Masaki family house, Ryo-Ohki and Sasami came in.

“Noike, it's about time for lunch ...” Sasami said pausing at the door.

“Myaaa!” Ryo-Ohki, who was on her shoulder, suddenly ran towards Washu when she noticed something.

“Ryo-chan!”

“I have already talked about it, so it's fine.” Washu beckoned to Sasami who tried to stop Ryo-Ohki. Seto also smiled nicely and nodded.

“Grandmother, are you busy today as well?” Sasami asked as she came running over to Washu.

“We can do something together around noon.”

“Yay!.... Oh!??” Sasami clung to Washu’s shoulder and noticed Ryo-Ohki watching something. There was a crystal on Washu's shoulder at the end of her line of sight.

“Meow! Meow!”
“No, Ryo-Ohki.
This one hasn’t been born yet,
it doesn’t know who you are.”
Washu peeled Ryo-Ohki off and handed her to Sasami.

“Washu ... ... your shoulder, what's wrong?”

Washu smiled to get rid of Sasami's worries. “I'm planning to build a new ship. This child is its core.”

“For who?”

“Myaaah! Myaaah!”

“No, Ryo-Ohki. This child hasn't been born yet, she can't play with you.”

Washu looked into the crystal and pulled a squealing Ryo-Ohki off and gave her to Sasami. Sasami stroked Ryo's head to calm her down.

“This child will be Seina's ship, but it's a secret.”

“Oh... is that why we haven't seen you for dinner in so long.”

“I have to transfer it to its eggshell today, I will be up for dinner tomorrow.”

“Yay!”

“Noike, can you help me prepare the meal?”

“Okay, let's go, Sasami-chan.”

Sasami took off with Noike and they went back to the living room.

When Sasami and Noike went out, Washu scooted up to Seto really close. “I'll send what I’m planning to you later.”

Seto got close to Washu's side and supported her body by holding her arm, “... this crystal is troublesome, but this is comfortable.”

When she said that, Seto picked up Washu and took her down the stairs.

*** * * Start of episode 8 * * ***

Chapter Three: Joint Exercise Trip

*** * * Translators' note: Day 102. * * ***

Two months after Miki's incident, Seina's second Bio-Enhancement adjustment training was finally over, and Seina had a peaceful day without any major incidents. Life at Amane's house had gained order and stability, although there was a strange tension and some twists and turns.

Gyokuren agreed not to harass Seina, incidents of Airi coming over had declined, there were less random parental and other unwanted guests visiting and NB hadn't been acting strange either.

On that evening, Seina was in the living room watching a travel brochure displayed by NB.

"What are you watching?" Amane, Kiriko, and Erma asked.

"A pamphlet for space activities."

"By the way Seina, your practical training up in space is tomorrow."

In the past, the outfit Amane was wearing that evening, which showed quite a lot of cleavage, would have caused a fight between Kiriko and Amane but they had grown accustomed to each other at this point.

"You're ready, aren't you?"

"Well, yeah, I only need to take NB with me right?"

"Right."

"Wow Kiriko, I'm surprised you're so cool with Seina going into outer space again."

"Oh, well there is no need to worry. It's an uninhabited area of space with no record of pirate activity and Amane will be with him."

"My encounter rate is zero."

"With the way you're dressed, it looks like your encounter rate is way more than zero." Gyokuren said to herself as she walked through the room into the kitchen.

"What did you say?!" Amane yelled.

Karen quickly pulled Gyokuren into the other room to quiet the situation.

"Well anyways, for the time being, I hear that they'll be having an escort ship following you just in case."

"Is it an escort ship or an Imperial ship?"

"I'm not sure, I didn't get any details." Kiriko said.

"However, it shouldn't matter, training is always just very routine and boring."

The other girls nodded in agreement.

“Training starts early tomorrow, so take a bath soon and go to sleep.”

“OK.” Seina grabbed NB and went back to his room.

× × ×

The next morning, Seina quickly finished breakfast and headed to the GP Academy with Kiriko.

Amane, had to leave two hours earlier because she was on staff.

Kenneth and Rajau greeted Seina, it had been a long time since they last saw him. They headed to the ship and got in line.

“Oh! Wow!” Kenneth said as the female students passed. The training was mixed gender but their classes weren't co-ed.

Kenneth clutched his fist in excitement over this.

Seina looked around, most of the boys seemed to think the same thing as Kenneth. And the girl students were also conscious of the boys as well. However, Seina was distracted by the ship anchored in front of him

(Oh wow it floats.)

× × ×

The training ship was 400 meters in length and looked like skyscraper lying down on its side. Of course, Seina had seen ones like them several times in pictures but it was different seeing it in person.

“Attention everyone!” A voice called out, the students aligned reflexively and saluted.

“Ah!”

The large screen floating above them displayed an image of Seiryo with an irate Amane behind him.

“It's been a long time since he went missing, I'm surprised he's alive.”

“Why didn't they fire him for being gone so long?”

“He probably gets special treatment because he is a Tennan.”

“Wow, Amane is so pretty. I wonder why she seems to be in a bad mood.”

Amane appeared to be desperately holding back the urge to hit Seiryo.

Seina looked nervous.

“What's wrong, Seina?” Kenneth looked at Seina with a wry smile. “You have a lot of history with Professor Tennan don't you?”

“Ha ha, yeah but I've already undergone Bio-Enhancement and have had no problems with him since.”

“If he's holding a grudge he might keep a close eye on us ...”

“On the contrary, if he's paying attention he can't keep an eye on Seina. I think he might just get distracted and ignore us entirely.”

“Right ... ... but if he does we can use Seina as decoy.”

“Hey, Seina we know you get see plenty of girls since you live with Kiriko and Amane, but today we have an opportunity here to see some our age.”

“I understand, I'll cooperate as much as possible.” Seina answered with a wry smile. To be honest, he was also interested in female students of the same age.

Seina breathed deeply and began to concentrate on the teachers' announcements.

× × ×

At the same time, the ship that was going to monitor them, ‘Natsuki’, which belonged to Seto's 13th Fleet was anchored nearby.

In addition to having state-of-the-art information gathering sensors, this ship, which was used to collect information on enemy areas, had not only stealth functions, but also high mobility and fighting power to pass through the enemy traps. It was also a combat ship that was supposed to be the flagship of the fleet.

On the bridge of the Natsuki was Minaho, Hakuren, and an elderly man named Takeshima, who was responsible for the ship.

“... I'm so excited to be assigned to monitor Seina Yamada. Utsutsumi's Thirteenth Fleet rarely gets orders to move, so basically all my time at work is spent as free time... I'm glad I finally have some orders.”

When the information gathering ships of the sacred fleet were called to action, Seto's maidens got assigned as Captains. Naturally, Hakuren had piloted ships like this in training many times. And in the past when Gyokuren was set to Captain ... Well, various disasters for the HR department had occurred.

The first grade students completed boarding the training ship.

“Ah……!”

Seina saw Mikami, Kiriko and Erma seeing him off on the upper deck floors of the spaceport.

“Kiriko-san came ..... Erma too.” He could see them wave and smile at him as the ship began to move.

“All salute!” Seiryo called, all the students saluted.

× × ×

Rajau saw Erma and waved wildly to her. “ERMA!” Seiryo interrupted him.

“Thank you, now you will return to your room and wait there until instructed.”

A lot of students ran off to their rooms, the ones who took their time were then chased around by Seiryo with a shock baton.

“Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!”

The students moved to their allocated rooms downstairs.

“Just when I was caught up in the moment, he had to go and ruin it. Seiryo is such a buzzkill.”

Rajau confirmed the room number and opened the door.

“I never expected him of all people to be our instructor for this ... I wonder if we can at least conference with people while were in here.”

When Kenneth entered the room, he immediately fell down on the bed and breathed a big sigh.

“..... This ship still has old-style rooms.”

“Since the training ship is composed of second-hand parts from actual ships, it'll be impossible for now.”

NB chimed in. “Actually you were all given pamphlets with two ID tags that you can share and you can contact anyone who has one.”

“Who reads those?”

“I did,” Seina said.

“If you like, I can go around and scan for other's Tag ID's,” NB told them.

× × ×

Kiriko kept saluting until the ship disappeared beyond the clouds. “Please return home safely, Seina.”

Mikami smiled while looking at Kiriko. “Don't worry Seina is in good hands.”

“Yes ... . oh ... hey wait a second, where did Airi-sama's go.....” Kiriko looked around but Airi was gone.

“Ho ho. she tried to stow away on the training ship so I locked here in that trashcan behind me ...”

“Airi's biggest disadvantage is that her behavior pattern is easy to read, ho ho.”

A few of Airi's secretaries came from nearby as Mikami laughed.

“We're sorry to have inconvenienced you.”

They picked up the trash can roughly and took it away.

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On the bridge, Seiryo was standing on a table looking around as the bridge staff saluted him.

“Thank you. I am Tennan Seiryo and I have been appointed Captain of this ship! ... blah blah blah blah...” Seiryo began rambling on to the crew.

Amane was standing with a cranky look behind him. (How did this idiot become Captain?!)

The reason was that other 50 teachers on board did not like the idea of being paired with Seiryo.

They had all heard about how he treated Seina and wanted nothing to do with him. But he was a Tennan and it wasn't possible to deny him a position on the ship. Actually, he should have been fired because of Amane sinking him to the bottom of a trench. He was gone for a few months without notice from work. But his family of course, gave a generous donation to the academy and he apologized so they let him come back.

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The operators grew tired of Seiryo's long winded and boastful speech but perked up once it ended because it was Amane's turn. They greeted her with applause.

“I am Amane Kaunaq, I will be serving as Deputy Captain today. Thank you.” She introduced herself quickly and got off the platform.

“Deputy Captain, we came to welcome you.” The operators threw bouquets of flowers at Amane's feet.

“Thank you, it’s a pleasure to serve you as the ‘Zero Goddess’!”

“Oh, thanks.”

Amane caught a bouquet and took a seat specially decorated for her.

“Where is my seat? Huh? I don't boast about it ... but also have a low attack rate ...”

“Oh we know, so we made you special seat.”

The operators pointed at a folding chair. It was covered with red and white cloth and it was decorated with cheesy artificial flowers, although it still looked fancy. And there was a large banner on it that said 'Captains seat’.

“Huh! Oh splendid!” Seiryo went up to his chair proudly.

“... ... I intended it to be a bit of a joke.” the operator told Amane.

“Don't worry, that idiots so stupid he won’t even notice,” Amane said coldly.

Seiryo sat down in the Captain's seat. “Come on, were approaching the outer ring, let's get back to work.”

They began to connect with the outer ring and got ready to pass through.

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The large container connected to the training ship was actually used as a small relay station. Most of the facilities installed in the container were related to the home delivery service, all the processes were automated, and in fact, the portion requiring human interaction was almost non-existent since even monitoring and maintenance were automated. However, due to the nature of the organization, the GP had much of it activities carried out in Space Pirate inhabited areas and other dangerous zones, and the possibility of encountering an emergency such as a machine breakdown was much larger than other trades because of it. For this reason, this facility was adjusted for manual training, most of the automation functions were removed and work had to be done by hand.

“... ... In other words, it is training in case of we need to take care of the automated systems in an emergency situation.” Kenneth told Seina.

They were all in the dining hall when Seiryo came up on a large monitor.

“There's no time to waste. Everyone get up and run to your workstations now!”

Seina started moving but NB began moving in the opposite direction.

“Master, I will be waiting in your room, do your best.”

“Why aren't you coming with me?”

“You told me to go find ID tags... Do you need me? Will you not be OK alone?”

“Of course I’ll be fine .... But aren't you supposed to assist me? Kiriko told me I should take you with me...”

“Hey Seina, what are you doing? Come on ... you don't need to bring NB with you for every single thing you know.” Rajau said.

“Is that so?”

“I'll contact you if anything happens,” NB said as he floated off

× × ×

After that, Seina and others were busy training.

Seina's work was to check the delivery destination of the package, and to press a mark that it had been confirmed with a stamp like a hammer. Packages that had been checked for content were flowing from top to bottom, one on top of another like a conveyor belt.

“I was expecting something harder.”

“But is it easy, isn't it?” Rajau said while stamping the packages.

“It's hard work for Kenneth.”

Kenneth, was distracted by a pretty instructor, she had on a wedding ring and was married. Seina thought it was interesting that that custom was present in space. Kenneth was stamping away without checking.

An error message came up.

“Oops!”

× × ×

The bridge of the training ship was a tiered structure, with the Captain's seat and the navigation operators on the upper part. The officials who were doing other work were in the lower part.

At the bottom of it, the former leaders of the Ryoko Balta fan club were busy working, they had recently escaped from their angry former followers.

“Oh ..... Alan. Did you see the student roster?”

“Oh yeah ..... Seina was on it ... ...”

“Do you think we'll be attacked by Space Pirates ...?”

“Oh... well.... we do have the ‘Zero Goddess’ on board ... .” Alan said, looking up at the top tier.

“...with Seiryo.”

“All right, I guess we'll be okay then.” Alan relaxed.

“But a space pirate attack might be an opportunity for us.”

“What do you mean, Alan?”

“If we can discover an idol Space Pirate to replace Ryoko, we can make a new fan club and those glorious days of being rich may come back to us again!”

“Oh, if we did that we would be free from our debt hell!”

“Let's do it!”

Alan was absorbed in his fantasy of being able to pay off the debt they had incurred spending their money frivolously. He was supposed to monitor the sensors for the ship and it was outputting abnormal readings.

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Seina was working when Seiryo told everyone to break for lunch.

× × ×

Amane came back from her own lunch.

“Okay, it's time.” Seiryo shouted from the top of the turret.

“All green. We have linked with the escort ship successfully!”

“Initiating hyperspace jump!”

“Energy output, rising to 120, 130, 135, 140 ...”

The ship began to enter hyperspace as space twisted around it. The bridge shook with a bang, Seiryo fell into the lower bridge.

“Status report!” Amane yelled after judging that Captain Seiryo was unable to perform his duties...not that the bridge considered Seiryo Captain anyways.

“The output of the engine suddenly dropped. The main power reactor is stopping. Currently only sub engines are active!”

“Were falling out of hyperspace!”

“Engineering department operator! Report!”

“Security investigate the situation quickly! There's an abnormality in engine sector. Please check on it!” Amane ordered.

× × ×

In the lower bridge, Alan's trio talked among themselves.

“The engine's internal pressure won't stop decreasing! What's wrong with you, Barry!?”

“It's not me! Alan hasn't been checking his monitor properly!”

“We're going to get fired!”

“If that happens we won't be able to pay debts!”

“Calm down, calm ... ...”

Alan had been thinking about how to mislead the others in this situation while appeasing Barry - and Cohen who were beginning to panic.

“... ... Wait a second!” They looked at the stunned Seiryo.

“Let's blame it on him! Hurry up!”

Alan briefly explained the plan to other two, they dragged the collapsed Seiryo to their station to make it look like he had stumbled into it.

And the next moment, a bridge guard came running into Alan's booth.

A Space Pirate ship had appeared before them in space. They nearly dropped out of warp right on top of them.

“It's a GP ship ... ...” Kyo Komachi said while looking at the training ship from her bridge.

“Do you want us to sink it?”

“No, wait, let's find out what that training ship is doing this area.”

“Besides, the other day, that Tarrant guy went off on his own and attacked them, it's not a good idea to fuel his pursuit of pointlessly making enemies.”

“Understood, I don't want to be grouped with that Tarrant fellow either.”

“However, the route is different from usual ... ... what can you find out about them .....?”

“Their engine output is low, they seem to be having engine trouble.”

“Earning some pocket money doesn't sound too bad, let's raid them while they’re vulnerable.” Komachi signaled her men to start preparing the raid.

“Let's introduce them to the reality of the GP, but be careful not to hurt any of the students.”

× × ×

“The training ship's engines have failed! Our link has failed!” The chief operating officer of the Natsuki reported.

“We have to find the training ship immediately!” Hakuren ordered.

“Got it! Returning to normal space.” With that a large moon like object appeared in front of them.

“We’re experiencing heavy vibration waves!?”

“What about the training ship?”

“Its location can't be determined because long distance communication is impossible due to the vibration waves, we can't even get our own co-ordinates.”

“Operate with anticipated figures! Can you identify the source of the vibration wave?”

“Unknown ship, rapidly approaching! It's a planetary scale ship!”

“It's the main source of the vibration waves.”

“.....”

Hakuren wasn't sure if she should do a super spatial jump. She wanted to catch up with the training ship as soon as possible, but the influence of such vibration waves made it as risky as a random jump.

Moreover, in this situation where they didn't even know their starting position, it was equivalent to an act of suicide. It was also dangerous to leave such a huge unknown ship unidentified. Even if it delayed meeting up with the ship it was necessary to confirm the identity of the huge ship.

“..... Relative speed match with unknown ship! Confirming its identity. Yellow alert!”

“Wow……” The operators who saw the ship gasped.

“Information gathering starting!” An operator said, but the ship began to attack them.

× × ×

In the dining hall of the training ship, the students and teachers were eating together. However their lunch was ruined when the ship started shaking.

“Students, this is Seiryo Tennan, your Captain speaking ~~. We are currently carrying out emergency repairs in normal space due to engine trouble. Everyone return to your cabins immediately. That's all.”

“Engine trouble?”

“Engine trouble ... ...”

“Engine trouble? ...”

Like an avalanche, it spread among the students, and all the students and teachers there turned and looked at Seina.

“Oh!” Seina stiffened up in embarrassment

× × ×

“Ha ... ... Oh wow, I seem to have upset everyone.... I wonder if everything is going to be okay.” Seina said while eating a mobile meal similar to a hamburger, which was provided in his room.

“It's not a big deal because were not evacuating.” Kenneth, said as he finally finished eating his portable meal. He threw the garbage into the duster shoot, and laid in bed and stretched out. It was still early in the morning and he felt like dozing off.

“Maybe this is part of the training.”

“That's a possibility ... but what if it's a pirate attack ...?”

The door opened and NB came in.

“NB ... ...! Where were you!?”

“That's not important. Check this out!” NB brushed off Seina and began manipulating the panel on the wall of the cabin. Then, a split screen of the girls changing room and the shower room was projected.

“Oooooo!” Kenneth jumped out of bed and approached the panel. He pushed NB out of the way of the screen. Then Rajau scooted next to Kenneth and squatted in front of the screen.

“Is this feed from this ship?”

“Of course, raw and uncensored.” NB said.

“Wow I feel like such a voyeur.”

“Which one should we watch?”

“Hey NB! Stop that!!” Seina tried to stop NB, but Kenneth and Rajau stopped him.

“Seina! We are friends, and we haven't even been able to talk to any of the girls students all day. I need this!”

“Yeah Seina. Think about our needs for a change.”

Kenneth and Rajau emphasized with a puppy dog tears filled expression. But they were soon distracted by the image on the screen.

“Oh – – – – !!”

One of the split monitors was enlarged, and a feed of girls in their underwear in the changing area was projected on the screen. The girl began taking off her bra. Kenneth and Rajau left Seina and clung to the panel.

Seina looked at NB strangely.

“Hey NB, what's going on with you, is something wrong?”

“Don't be silly. Nothing's wrong with me.”

“Seina look! She's about to take it off!” Kenneth pointed as a girl began unhooking her bra. Just as she was about to take it off the ship shook and the screen cut out.

“AHH!!” Kenneth and Rajau shouted as if the end of the world had come.

× × ×

On the bridge an alarm sounded as the ship shook. However, Seiryo, who fell earlier, was desperately clinging to a pipe on the wall. “What's going on? Report quickly!”

“A ship has attacked us, it seems like a Space Pirate.” An operator called out.

Alan's trio talked among themselves.

“..... Well looks like riding with the Zero Goddess didn't help at all...”

“Seina's bad luck was stronger ....”

“But maybe its Ryoko-sama's ship.”

“Oh!!”

The three turned to stare at the information officer.

“The enemy ship data says it belongs to the Da Ruma Guild, that is Komachi Kyo's Destroyer!”

“What……?”

“This is bad! Our cannons are offline!” Amane said.

“Fire the cannons! Destroy them all!” Seiryo ordered.

“Sir, our cannons are off line. We can’t fire until the engines are repaired.” The operator reported.

“Fire at will! Blow them to pieces!” Seiryo ordered, ignoring him.

“Sir, they are firing at us. I have raised our shields but they aren't very strong.” Another officer reported.

“Fire at will!”

“Sir our shields are failing. They’re sending raider ships our way.”

“Fire at will! Blow them all up! Shoot shoot shoot ahahaaha!” Seiryo, excited at seeing the Space Pirates, had completely forgotten about the engine trouble.

Amane's rage started to boil over.

× × ×

“Where did the picture go?” Kenneth and Rajau were in shock over the image cutting out.

NB had rolled away and hit a wall. Seina was relieved it had stopped. He looked at NB and wondered why it was acting like a dirty old perv. (I wonder if this is a part of the software that Airi put in it.) Seina thought when suddenly NB got back up and the picture came back on.

“Oh look, it came back!”

“What!”

Kenneth and Rajau scooted back up to the video screen.

× × ×

Outside, raider ships shaped just like knives plunged through the ships shield and rammed into the sides of the shipping container one after the other.

× × ×

“Who do those people think they are dealing with?! FIRE!” Seiryo yelled.

Amane bashed him over the head with her fist. “They don't work you idiot!”

× × ×

“Hey, Seina's NB! There are no more girls in the changing room, switch the feed to the baths!”

NB switched the monitor image from the changing room to a feed of the bathing room. However, because there was dense steam, it was heard to make anything out.

“I can't see a thing!” Kenneth and Rajau began to breathe heavily towards the monitor.

“What are you doing?” Seina asked.

“... ... maybe if we blow on the screen the fog will clear!”

Seina was a bit disappointed with his two roommates.

“Would you like me to adjust the ventilation program for you?” NB asked.

“Awww yeah... ... the steam has cleared and it's become sunny ... ...!”

A girl student began to get out of the bathtub. Kenneth and Rajau dry swallowed. Seina turned his face from the screen with a puzzled expression.

“Alright!” The moment the female student got up, Seiryo was displayed on the monitor.

“Ahhhhhhh!!” Kenneth and Rajau jumped in shock.

“Students! This ship is being attacked by Space Pirates! Stand by in your rooms, and don't go out. That's all! “

After Seiryo's communication was over, the picture switched to the bath again.

“Oh ~ ~ ~ ~”

“Wow!” But the hull soon shook and all the images on the panel disappeared.

“Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

× × ×

“Oh yeah! All members prepare to fight! Follow me! Ha ~ ~ ~ Ha ha ha!”

Seiryo swiftly raised a sword and ran out of the bridge.

“Enemy have broken through blocks 32 and 36!”

“Close blocks 40 to 48!”

“A second wave of small enemy ships are approaching!”

“Try to stabilize the shields!”

× × ×

“Master, you seem to have a nosebleed.” NB reached out a hand and wiped his nose with a tissue.

“What's going on?” Kenneth hit the panel in frustration.

“This must be bad.... all communication lines are down.”

NB pulled out the plug which he had thrust into the terminal of the panel and went towards the door.

“Where are you going ...?”

“I am going out to search for a working line.”

“Alright! Let's go with him!” Kenneth headed for the door following NB. Rajau also stood up to follow it.

“But Kenneth, there's Space Pirates ... ...”

“It’s okay. This is training! It's just training for if we get invaded by Space Pirates. They're not real.”

“Yeah, this has to be a staged event.” They followed NB out to the corridor.

“Hey!” Seina rushed to stop them but they were already headed up the stairs to the center of the ship.

“I guess it can't be helped.” For a moment Seina thought of going back to the room to wait, but he decided to check the situation outside, to see whether this standby order was training or not.

He climbed the stairs and went to the outer passage. But there wasn't a flashy battle like Seina thought would be happening.

“..... Rajau..... Kenneth ... ...”

Seina couldn't find them. Suddenly Seina felt something behind him and instinctively he jumped out of the way to avoid it.

“!”

He heard a roaring sound like one would hear when electricity short-circuits and smelled the smell of burning metal. Seiryo stood with a light sword stabbed right next to Seina.

“Well avoided Space Pirate!”

“Space pirate? Seiryo, it's me! Seina Yamada!”

“Nice try pirate, but all the students at our school are waiting in their rooms!”

“Ah, yeah, that's right, but ...” Seina glanced at the pillar the light coming from the sword. The metal next to him, the exposed metal was burned and discolored.

“Seiryo sensei, that sword ..... It seems pretty powerful.”

“Don't worry, you will be fine as long as it doesn't hit your head.”

“But weren't you aiming at my head?”

“Stop with these pointless questions pirate scum!” When Seiryo swung the light sword again. Seina ran away.

× × ×

In an aisle with no light, NB was accessing a terminal from a panel. However, there were only unmanned passages on the monitor.

“What are you doing, there's no girls one on these cameras.” Kenneth beat NB in a frustrated manner.

“Oh, look there's someone.” Rajau pointed. There was a small figure on the monitor.

“It's dark ... I can't make it out that well ... Oh, it's Seina! Why is he running?”

“It seems master is being followed.”

“Oh you’re right! But by who ... ...”

“... ... Is... that.... Seiryo sensei?”

“Looks like it.”

“Is he chasing Seina with a sword?”

“Looks like it.”

“What did he do?”

× × ×

“Deputy Captain Amane! ... Captain Seiryo is following someone... ...” The operator who was monitoring the ship was puzzled as he showed Amane the feed.

“Ha ha ha! IS HE TRYING TO FIGHT THEM ALL HIMSELF, how far will he go?”

The screen showed Seina being chased.

“Seiryo! You idiot! What do you think you're doing?” Amane seemed pissed off as she shook her fist at the screen.

While it was true that pirates were invading, there was no need to physically go after them.

“We understand, please go! We will contact you if your judgment is needed.” the operator said. Amane jumped up and ran off the bridge.

* * * **Translators’ note: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Da Ruma_doll**

I know they translated it as the Da Ruma in the dub.... but it's Da Ruma. * * *

“We’re getting a report from the Big Da Ruma! The Big Da Ruma and a Juraian ship have encountered each other.” An officer aboard Komachi's ship informed her.

“Juraian ship!? Is it a royal ship?”

“No, it's a normal ship. There is a high possibility that it's an escort ship. Perhaps it was following this training ship, I wonder if their engines failed and they got stranded ...”

“....so it's not a Juraian warship.” Komachi who confirmed that it was not a royal ship breathed a sigh of relief.

“Should we destroy this ship and go help the Da Ruma?”

“Help? The Big Da Ruma hasn't destroyed the escort ship yet on its own?”

“Well.... It's pretty fast ..... it's hard to even see on the feed they are sending us.”

“Oh!? ... . This is the first time I've ever seen something like that... ... this is probably a Juraian reconnaissance ship.” Komachi looked at the video feed of the giant moon sized ship with a puzzled expression.

“It's almost as annoying as a royal ship.”

“Calm down! Even if it's a nuisance there's no way it could take down the Big Da Ruma.”

“Alright! Don't let the SOS signal transmitted by the training ship get to the Juraian ship.”

“Are you sure? What if they destroy the Big Da Ruma?”

“Idiot! I told you that the Juraian ship is just a reconnaissance ship! It's only use is to gather information, there is no reason it would possibly be able to do that! Hurry and hail the Big Da Ruma so we can tell them to change course.”

Their ship shook as they rammed through the shield of the training ship.

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“Hakuren-sama! We’re getting a distress signal from the training ship!” An operator screamed as the bridge of the Natsuki shook.

“What's going on!?”

“I can't tell, the signal is feint. It's being blocked, they must want us to stay away from them.”

They realized the pirates were planning to destroy the training ship after plundering it.

“Our mission is to escort the training ship.”

“But that planet scale is probably ....” The Captain realized that the planet scale was the Big Da Ruma. If they let it out of their sight it would be impossible to recapture.

“Would you give up the opportunity to save the student's lives?”

That was the problem they faced.

“Don't worry about the ship, it's highly likely with Seina Yamada's abilities we'll encounter it again! Just hurry and let's save the training ship!”

“You’re right! Operator, Prepare to jump to the co-ordinates from the distress signal and send word to the Mikagami!” The commander ordered.

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Seina was chased by Seiryo into a cargo room full of steel containers.

“Ha ha ha! Prepare to die!”

“Aaaah!” Seina ran. He looked back and saw Seiryo preparing to attack with his sword.

“Hehe ... ... As a teacher it pleases me to know you can handle being attacked with a sword.”

“If you recognize me why are you chasing me ...?”

“Originally, I was supposed to handle your Bio-Enhancement, it's my duty to confirm the results.” Seiryo slashed down but missed. He stopped attacking.

“Haha, I'm just enthusiastic about my duties ... but I think I've already confirmed enough ... Space Pirates are attacking the ship, aren't they?”

“Uuh.... yes.... hey what's that sound ...” with a tremendous roaring sound, an assault boat broke through the wall.

× × ×

“Why did they all go back to their rooms?” Kenneth and Rajau stared at the monitor with NB. All the female students seemed to have returned to their own rooms, and no one was to be seen anywhere they looked.

“Are there no surveillance cameras in the rooms?”

“That's pointless, what would they even be doing in their rooms that was worth watching?”

“You’re right, I guess we should just go back to our rooms until this drill is over.”

Something that felt like a hard metal pipe was suddenly pressed into the back of Rajau's head.

“What's wrong?” Kenneth, suspicious of Rajau's lack of response, turned away from the monitor to check on him.

“Freeze!” Before they knew it Kenneth and Rajau were held up by two Space Pirates with guns.

“Wait... these are just students.”

“In a place like this? What are they doing here?”

“Yeah! What are you doing here?” The Space Pirates turned their guns to Kenneth and Rajau.

“We're just using our NB to peep using the camera's ... .”

“I've never heard of a student with an NB.”

“Huh!?” The pirates tried to pull the trigger on the gun but their bodies were suddenly thrown violently sideways.

“Are you all right?”

“……Eh?” Kenneth looked in the direction of the voice and noticed Amane standing covered in a guardian shield.

“Sensei!” Kenneth and Rajau cried, they rushed to hug Amane. It was true that the two were happy to no longer be held at gunpoint. But they also really just wanted an excuse to touch Amane's chest but her guardian repelled them.

“Do you understand now why you should follow orders?”

“... .... Yes …”

“Alright then... I am going to go save Seina, the passage to residential block is safe so hurry!” As Amane said that, the walls extended hoses that shot out containment gel they enveloped the space pirates.

Kenneth and Rajau started heading back.

“This is all NB's fault ......”

“Wait... where is NB.”

“What!! ... ... Where did it go? That jerk didn't even try to defend us!”

“No time to look for him, let's hurry back our safety is more important.”

“Yeah, you’re right.” Kenneth glanced at the cured containment gel before he began running full speed towards the residential block to escape from the scene.

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“What's going on!?” Seina was puzzled by the shock of the ship ramming into the wall.

Seiryo had been flung into a wall, Seina rushed to help him.

“Seiryo sensei ... Are you OK?”

The assault ship widened and opened.

“What do we do? We have to get out of here ... Aaah!”

Suddenly Seina fell backwards. Seiryo had jumped up knocking him over.

“Come out Space pirate scum!”

Seiryo rushed over to the assault boat and directed his light sword towards the entrance. He heard footsteps and out came a large woman. It was Komachi Kyo.

“Huh! What! A woman?”

Komachi heard Seiryo's ignorant tone and looked him up and down with a strange look.

“What, are you doing here? Who are you?”

Seiryo gazed at Komachi strangely. However, it was for different reasons than Komachi. He got a nosebleed.

It was a strange sight for Komachi to witness. Of course, this was because Komachi, was a big giant and very manly looking woman, she knew that she was not the type of woman who normally excited a man. That's why she looked at him so strangely. But from his clothes and the streak on the wall, she quickly understood the situation that was going on before she arrived.

“My name is Komachi · Kyo. What's your name?” She pulled out the handle of a light sword from her bosom.

“I would never waste my name on a strange Space Pirate like you, maybe your doctor will tell you when I send you to him.”

“The strange one is you! How about you wipe that nose bleed of yours.”

“What? Oh!” Seiryo quickly wiped his nose and quickly groomed himself before relighting his light sword.

(I see ... ... That is an idiot is from Tennan family, that stance is unmistakable ..... Hmm!)

The air between the two changed completely and they began to face off.

“What!?”

“Oh!” Koichi and Seiryo crossed swords.

The moment the two light swords hit, the output rose and the blade part became visible. The sensor misunderstood the rise in the power of the light sword as a fire or energy leakage accident and it sent out an ejection port similar to a snake that launched a bubble gel used for insulation at the two light swords.

“Oh!”

Despite being blown off course by the impact of the bubble gel landing, Seiryo and Komachi quickly resumed their face off.

“What is this...? ..... My hands!?”

The hands of the two were sealed together in gel with their light swords. Komachi and Seiryo began to desperately avoid the bubble gel which was still being sprayed at them. A GP member and a Space pirate – – although they were enemies, the two avoided the bubble gel with stunning cooperation.

“Why ... Oh! It's responding to the energy of the light sword!”

Because Seiryo and Komachi knew where the sensor was aiming, it was relatively easy to avoid, but for Seina it was not.

“Aaaaaah!”

Some of the gel missed Seiryo and almost hit Seina.

“Ha ha ha! You'll need to be quicker than that if you want to be in the GP!”

“He's just a student, don't be stupid!

For a moment, the collaboration between the two was disturbed, Seiryo took a direct hit from the gel. With his mobility impaired Komachi's mobility fell as well. Soon Komachi was stuck to the floor. Seiryo and Komachi desperately struggled to get away, but the rubberized gel was resistant to any amount of human force.

Seiryo took out a laser knife.

“You idiot!”

But before Komachi could say more... Pew pew! Seiryo was struck by gel and he was able to move only his head.

“You know what that thing is reacting to! You're so stupid!”

“What do you mean? No I'm not, you are!”

A new sensor began to respond, a large outlet was opened on the ceiling and a large amount of gel for disaster prevention began to be released. It was meant to protect the shipment by filling the warehouse in case of theft or accident. The flowing gel increased its quantity steadily as it spread on the floor.

“What, what is this?”

“Keep silent!” Komachi closed Seiryo's mouth and contacted the bridge of her ship.

“Hey, the repair gel is malfunctioning. Can you control it from over there?”

“Just a moment please……”

“AAIEEEEEE!” And then a small scream came in from the bridge.

“Hey, what is it!?”

“It's no big deal! It seems that there's some control over here, but something seems to have hijacked it ... I will do something about it soon, please wait a while.”

“Are you being hijacked?”

In a passage several blocks ahead of Komachi, NB was using the training ships’ systems to mess with the space pirate's ship's systems.

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“I succeeded in accessing the Space Pirate ship, and have succeeded in finding many women ...” Some monitors were launched and there was a woman changing in Komachi's ship. And one after another, the girls' toilets and the locker rooms were projected.

Suddenly a hand was placed on top of NB who was distracted by the feed. He was lifted up violently.

“Ahhh, stop you’re going to break me ~ ~”

“What are you doing here!?” Amane glared at NB as her blood vessels throbbed in her temple.

“Ah ..... Amane! I'm just surveying the pirates ... ...”

“Where is Seina?”

“Uhm ... ... I lost him ...”

“Find him!”

× × ×

The gel discharge continued to flow and it was already up to Seiryo's neck.

“... If this doesn't stop we're going to drown.”

“What about your rescue team?”

“They can't do anything about it yet!”

Suddenly she got a message.

“The Juraian ship has arrived!”

“It's here already?” That was quick ..... we need to leave.”

“What are you talking about!?”

“None of your business, be quiet!” Komachi covered Seiryo's mouth with her hands.

“We don't have time to keep trying to hack the systems, were sending a rescue team!”

“OK! Hurry! I'm begging you!” Komachi cut communications and breathed a small sigh as she uncovered Seiryo's mouth.

Seiryo, who had been unable to breathe had passed out.

“... Oh ..... That reminds me, isn't there someone else in here with us?” Komachi looked around to find Seina stuck to the wall.

She noticed his clothes where that of a student.

“Hey, Hey! You there! Are you listening?” Komachi shouted as she hit Seiryo's unconscious head.

“Shut up! Stop hitting me!”

“Hey, that boy ... is he a student?”

“Hmmpf ..... yes, one of our problem recruits, he's delusional if the thinks he's ever going to be a GP member of my caliber.”

Komachi who heard what Seiryo said turned pale.

“You... you idiot! ... ... Why would you drag a student into battle!?” The two started arguing.

Seina, who was stuck to the wall took out a pocket knife with his free hand. He stabbed the gel with his knife and cut the gel.

Komachi noticed Seina getting out of the gel.

“Wow!? That's one smart cadet.”

“Master, can you hear me?”

“NB? Where are you?” Seina spoke to NB on a monitor, but Amane kicked him off.

“Seina, where are you? Are you safe?”

“Ah, Amane-sensei ... I'm fine, but this strange gel is filling up the room.”

“I know. NB can't stop it from here but you can. Quick NB explain!”

“Master there should be a ladder nearby. There is a panel there you can reach by climbing it.”

Seina moved as instructed by NB. He opened the panel.

“Please enter this numerical value.”

“Roger that!”

“Good! It's set to manual now, there should be a screwdriver like crank. Turn it to control the gel.”

Seina started turning it. With every turn the flow of the gel weakened until it stopped completely.

“Alright! It's stopped.”

“It's amazing that such a smart cadet has been trained by this idiot.” Komachi said hitting Seiryo over the head, he went unconscious.

“Bravo cadet, nice work.”

“Oh, uh... Thanks.”

GAGON! Another one of Komachi's raider ships broke through the wall, 14 pirates came out of it.

“Ms. Komachi, are you safe?” The pirates ran to her and began to investigate the gel.

Seina went to hide but a large swarm of voyeur camera feeds popped up around him because of NB.

“No NB not here!”

“There is an enemy behind that container!” A Space Pirate got out in front of Komachi, he started firing at the container Seina was behind.

“Stop you idiots!”

The Crime prevention gel was stopped, but the bubble gel launcher which restrained Seina was still in operation. The Bubble gel was fired towards the guns of the Space Pirates.

“Aah!” In an instant, gel hit two of the guns.

“Discard your guns!” Komachi ordered, the pirates threw their guns away quickly. The thrown guns were enveloped in a mass of gel in the blink of an eye.

“It's overreacting to energy outputs, don't use energy swords for cutting the gel!”

“Yes ma’am!”

The pirates stared at Seina.

“He's just a student, you can leave him alone! Use an emergency ax to get us out of here!”

“Yes, one moment!” The pirates left a guard and ran to the assault ship.

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“Tell me where he is, we have to get to him!” Amane said hitting NB over and over like a punching bag.

“Stop! You'll break me!”

“I'll fix you when we get home! Just do it!” Amane suddenly got a call from an operator.

“Deputy Captain Amane. The escort ship has arrived, the Pirates are leaving.”

“Alright!”

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“Damn it ~ ~ why is this gel so hard to cut!?” The pirates grumbled while trying to cut Komachi out of the gel.

Seina hid from the space pirates behind the container.

“That gel, you have to cut through it slowly.”

“What? ... Oh, it's working.”

When he pulled the blade of the ax through it slowly, the blade easily cut through the gel.

“Alright! Hurry up... but slowly.”

“What about that guy attached to you?”

“We don't have time. Bring him with us.

An energy torch from a GP rescue team began to cut through the bulkhead on the entrance to the room. But it was soon sealed in gel.

“Ha ha ha ha ha ha, looks like we have just enough time to escape.”

However, after a few minutes the cutting resumed by a different method that didn't trigger the gel.

“You’re a smart student. What is your name?” Komachi shouted at Seina.

“Oh, uhm, its Seina... Seina Yamada.”

Komachi was astonished. “Oh, so you're the infamous Seina... ....”

“Yes, that's me...”

“Seina Yamada. I am grateful, you saved my life. As a thank you, let me give you some advice. Beware the space pirate named Tarrant Shank.” With that they cut a block with Komachi and Seiryo out of the gel, boarded their ship and left.

“Tarrant? ... Huh...”

The moment the ship pulled out of the wall, Gel was fired to seal it up. A few seconds later Amane broke through the wall and came in.

“Seina, are you hurt?”

“Amane-sensei, Tennan-sensei was captured.” Seina pointed at the hole where the assault boat had opened.

“Wow! Really? That's great!” Amane was pleased until she noticed Seina's puzzled look.

“Oh ~ ~ ~ uh, I mean ... Oh no ... Too bad we can't do anything about it ... Drat! Oh those awful Space Pirates.”

*** * * Translators’ Note: End of chapter, but not of the episode the next chapter starts 20 minutes into episode 9. * * ***

Chapter Four: Baptism of Peace and Madness

In the President's office of Galaxy Academy, Airi and Mikami were facing each other, and they were holding a conference.

“... ... I heard that you're controlling NB and making it do questionable things ...”

“What, from who?”

Mikami launched a monitor.

“It was awful, Ms. Airi! I was so scared! Suddenly I lost control of NB, and it began to do strange things and show sexy images to Seina..... I am so ashamed that I let him be exposed to such things ... I'm sorry. “

Kirche was reflected on the monitor as she cried. However, Kirche didn't know any better and blamed herself, not Airi.

”It's not your fault, don't worry Ms. Kirche, it's all because of Airi-san.”

“What!? ... ... But I thought only I could control NB ...”

“Nevertheless, Airi-sama helped Seina get out of a serious crisis, so no action will be taken against her.”

Airi suddenly got in front of Kirche and Mikami and begged. “I won't do it anymore, please don't tell Kiriko-chan or Seto-sama ...or Minaho.”

“Really, Airi?”

“Of course! Absolutely!”

“I forgive you, but I'm still going to apologize to Seina this evening.” Wiping away her tears, Kirsch smiled a lovely smile and disappeared along with her monitor after giving a bow.

“She is really pretty, ho ho ho.”

“And she has a lovely personality.”

“She is quite gentle too, ho ho.”

“Somehow lately, everyone has been cold towards me ...”

“Including Minaho?”

“Especially Minaho, and when Seina is involved Kiriko-chan show's no mercy.”

“Well Minaho is pretty close with Seina through Kiriko and Kiyone.

Still it's amazing, he encountered pirates after only three hours and thirty-six minutes in space ... ... the odds of that are astronomical.” Mikami said steering the subject.

Airi went back to her chair and sat. “... .... Yes, that's almost the same as Mitoto and Mihoshi-chan.”

“I haven't confirmed yet, it seems your daughter encountered the Da Ruma Guild's mother ship, Seina has a tremendous talent.”

“I haven't confirmed it either, but I am convinced that crusty old shit hag has arranged for him to enter the decoy division.” Airi said as she looked through her desk for an important document.

“I'm surprised Seto let that leak, ho ho ho.”

“Seina's talent is nothing more than a nuisance for him, but for the GP, it’s a major asset. It's no wonder that they want to monopolize on it.”

“Even so Airi, I don't think it's wise to place a cadet in such an important position ...”

“Talent is not a thing we can just mass produce ... Let's assign him to the Kamidake.”

“The Kamidake! But, Airi, isn't that supposed to be the prototype for Jurai's latest model of battle ships?” Mikami was surprised.

“Isn't it worth it? It's set to have its maiden voyage next week. What better way to test its warfare capability then to have him on board.”

“But what it info on it leaks out.”

“It’s okay for some leakage. In the end Jurai has its royal ships.”

“Okay, let's discuss this with Amane as soon as the training ship returns, what should we do about Kiriko?”

“I think I will talk directly with her this evening.” While saying that, Airi started typing up a letter to Kiriko.

*** * * Translators’ note: Start of episode 10, however these scenes are not as they happen in the anime where they seem too have mashed up a bunch of scenes really sloppily. This is a prime example of how Nabeshin sloppily cut things together. Why would Amane even be working in Mikami's office? Why would the other students be called there? His editing relies on fridge logic. Kajishima doesn't believe in such things clearly. * * ***

That night, after finishing work Kiriko came back to her house built on the banks of the lake for the first time in a few months.

“Sorry I made you wait.” Kiriko went into the living room.

There Airi was cracking open some crabs she had fished from the lake and cooked up for her and Kiriko.

“Help me get this crab meat out.”

Kiriko picked up a plate with some crabs and helped break the shells.

“We're going to put Seina into the decoy division ...”

Kiriko stopped cracking crabs and froze up. Airi moved quickly so that Kiriko's saliva would not get into the crab meat she had extracted.

“Seina is not your toy! This better be a joke!” Kiriko yelled with an unusual abundance of anger.

“Kiriko do you know what the Natsuki found when it went along on Seina's trip?”

“Natsuki ..... Isn't that Utsutsumi's Recon Ship!”

“Yes, it went with Seina's ship and got separated when the training ship had engine trouble, they encountered a large planet scale ship ...”

“A planetary scale ship? ..... I only heard that they were attacked by Komachi Kyo! What ship was it!?”

“The Jurai Information Division has confirmed it to be the Da Ruma Guild's mother ship, the Big Da Ruma.”

“He encountered something like that ...” Kiriko sat down in a panic looking like she was about to collapse from shock.

It had been decided that Seina was going to the decoy division, and disclosing this information to Kiriko here meant that fact had been leaked already by various routes.

“... ... This is a very risky decision.”

“If we can hit the flagship of the Da Ruma Guild, we can weaken the power of the Space Pirates greatly ... And acquire the huge amount of information that the Guild has accumulated.”

As a large Space Pirate Guild, it would naturally possess lots of intel. From information on friendly and hostile pirate organization, to leaks in the Galactic and Renza Federations. By acquiring that info the Galactic Federation would have the power to rewrite the power diagram of the galaxy in one stroke.

“Seto and principal Mikami and I wanted for Seina to enjoy student life properly. I thought that it would be good for Seina's spiritual growth. But things have changed. It's necessary to rush him a bit from now on. If we give them too much time it'll be impossible to take down the pirates. We need to move ... Do you understand ... For this reason Seto has given us permission to use the Kamidake.”

“The Next-generation Juraian flagship!?”

“Naturally we’re using Seina to test it out.”

“So you want to use him to subject it to battle?”

“I know it sounds crazy but I assure you Tennyo's team is working hard on making it resilient.”

“I'm surprised they're okay with using Seina... but I guess I'm okay with it.”

“..... Seina-chan, is going to get in trouble no matter where he is anyways ... ...”

“But Seina isn't alone in this ... There are lots of people who are thinking about doing something to help him ... You know that, don't you?”

“I would be happy if it was free of charge.”

“Not only is it free, it's the best! It pays to have friends in high places.”

“Is it really free if you make money off the patents on it?” Kiriko said, taking the plate of crab back from Airi.

“Uh .... Well ... I guess I do get a salary from the GP for it ... “

“That reminds me. During Seina's training NB was exhibiting some suspicious behavior, did you do something Airi-sama?”

“Who's told you!?”

“I just looked over Amane's report and put 2 and 2 together.” Amane's intelligent reports included many seemingly trivial details and Kiriko had figured it out from there.

“..... Ehehehehe, uhmmmm about that .....”

“Save it, let's just eat.” They began eating crabs silently till they were full.

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The next day, the students disembarked from the training ship and returned to the dormitory.

Seina headed to the principal office with Amane. “What is this about? Did she say?”

“Perhaps it's about the space pirates.”

“Maybe it's about Seiryo...”

“Huh, I doubt it ...” Amane smiled happily. “I think she is as glad as I am to not to have to deal with him.”

“Aren't you worried?”

“I feel sympathy for the Space Pirates who abducted him, No doubt they are treating him well, at least that's what I expect from Komachi Kyo.”

“Yeah ... ... she seemed very polite ... .”

“But?”

“Well she seems like a very serious person ... .” Seina remembered how mad she was at Seiryo's selfish behavior.

“Well, they're in no hurry to hang him. He will be fine, ha ha ha.”

“Huh?”

“When he was seven, he had a teacher who came from another star system, he was a promising and upbeat new teacher called to the academy, but he knew nothing of the Tennan family. He desperately wanted to train that idiot. He gave up teaching all together by the time it was done and went back to his home planet. Stupidity and stubbornness runs in his family. I've known him long enough that I know he's been an idiot since childhood. That idiot once tried to look up my skirt when we were young... my pet garuga chased him and he fell crying off a cliff and ended up in in a fish net on a boat 3 hours later.” She said in a tone that greatly conveyed her hate for him. Seina decided this was a dangerous topic to continue on and remained silent. Fortunately he didn't have to stay silent for too long.

“Well, here's the principal's office.”

They knocked on the door and it opened automatically.

“Excuse me, I brought Seina Yamada.” Amane saluted.

The High School Principal's room had a large ceiling and looked like a gentle and majestic cathedral. Seina grew tense when he was greeted with a calm look from Mikami. He knew that that was never a good thing.

“Here you go.” A document plate was handed over to Seina by Mikami. He sat down.

“... Training, but isn't that for third year students?” Seina who read the note didn't seem surprised. However, Amane turned pale.

Amane was suddenly aware of the reason why Kiriko wasn't called with her.

“The GP Academy is a place to train future GP members. First we teach students the basic principles, then we judge their suitability from the result. But in your case, there is only one path for you to be assigned to.”

“Only one……” Seina knew the answer already. Mikami smiled wryly and breathed a big sigh.

“... ... Since you came from an early civilization you are a special case. Of course you can refuse this order, but you will have to leave the GP Academy. You will never be able to work in the GP if you do but you can still live at the academy. You can go to one of our general schools and find employment elsewhere. Airi has guaranteed it and Kiriko Masaki will remain your guardian, and you can also go back to Earth too if you like... keeping that in mind.... “

“I'll do it.”

“You understand what the Decoy Department does right?”

“… Yes, I know.”

A few months ago, Miki went to practical training. After her unhappy accident, Seina had done research and was familiar with some things. He knew that there was a high possibility of him being assigned there.

“The other day your training ship encountered a Space Pirate in a sector of space without any notable pirate activity. There's no doubt that this was due to your ability.”

“So you’re just going to use him as bait to collect Space Pirates?!” Amane, who had been silent till then, said with a stupefied face. “You can't just send him out there with no training!”

“Of course. Mr. Yamada's special abilities are valuable. We are going to give him as much practical training as possible.”

Amane said nothing more to Mikami's response.

She would have asked for her to withdraw such an order but she did not want to make Seina self-conscious over the danger he was in.

“Yamada Seina, this is an important choice that will influence your future greatly. Your reply isn't due for another week, please take your time to think this over, but this is a secret matter, so please keep it to yourself.”

“Uhm... so I'm going to have to undergo practical training for the decoy division... Why are you being so serious?”

“Hey, Seina!” Amane broke her cool demeanor and took Seina by the arm.

Mikami was staring at Seina as he was surprised. But Seina quietly started talking.

“I was thinking about what I could do in the GP and I figured I'd be best suited for the decoy division, I'm not surprised, by this nor anything else ...”

“But, Seina you haven't had any solid training yet.”

“Yes, I thought that the practical training was going to be two years ... And now it's suddenly not, but that's always the case for me.”

For the always unlucky Seina, disaster always came suddenly.

“Seina ... ... are you sure? How about thinking about this overnight at least?”

“Oh... You don't have to tell Ms. Masaki she already knows.”

“!! ..... Oh... I should have known Airi would've told her ahead of time.” Amane said to Mikami, Mikami nodded with a wry smile.

“But neither Airi nor Kiriko is forcing Seina to go to the decoy department.”

“For me, the other options are only to be a bother to someone .... It's a good thing for me to go where I'm needed, both Kiriko and Airi are convinced that I need to go to the decoy department, so I know that it's impossible to persuade them otherwise, And while I know that she isn't here ... Miki-senpai would too.”

“You've decided, haven't you, Mr. Yamada?”

“Yes, I'll do it.” Seina looked firmly at Mikami and nodded.

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Seina's assignment was processed and made official a week later. The night after Airi came with a letter for Seina and decided to have a small dinner party at Amane's house.

Kiriko and Karen helped Airi prepare dishes and lay them out on the table. Only this time, Hakuren and her girls were not maids, they joined the supper as guests.

Airi made a toast to Seina and they all drank, except Seina. Airi quickly began to eat.

“You sure are hungry Airi ... ... are you ok?” Erma asked, confused. Just watching the speed at which Airi was eating gave her heart burn.

Amane asked Airi a question but she said she didn't want to talk about work and grabbed a leg of meat and took a big bite.

“Seina-sama, is it true you’re going to the decoy department?”

“Yes, but not for at least another month.”

“Ha ha ha! Karen, are you worried about Seina?”

“Well, umm ... ... I ... .” Karen blushed. She took Airi's empty plates and ran to the kitchen.

“Ahahahaha! How cute, how about you Hakuren, Gyokuren and Suiren?” Airi who had already gotten drunk began teasing the girls.

“Wow! Airi-sama you sure know how to wolf down a plate.” Hakuren said, completely hypnotized by Airi's speed. Amane giggled.

“Wow, rude ..... What about you Gyokuren... no wait how about you Suiren.” Airi stood up passed Gyokuren and went next to Suiren.

“Hey Suiren-chan, SUIREN-CHAN, do you... do you.... have a thing for..... Seina-chan?” Airi said holding Suiren so she couldn't escape.

“Uh Kiriko ... ... Airi seems to be blanking out a lot, what's going on?”

“She started drinking when she started cooking.”

“Should we stop her?”

“Airi's under a lot of stress lately, Mikami told me we should just let her blow off some steam.”

“Yeah, but why does she have to do it in my house.” Amane, Kiriko and Erma talked loudly among themselves on the other side of the table as Airi's intoxicated state became more and more severe.

“Hey, Suiren, will you be lonely if Seina is gone?”

“..... Yes, I will.” Suiren turned red and tried to slip out of Airi's grip.

“Ahahahaha ~ ~ ~, cute! Hey Seina... you hear that... Suiren is lonesome.”

“Oh, thank you.” Like Suiren, Seina also turned red when he replied.

When she saw it, Airi got happy enough to move on to Gyokuren.

“Gyokuren is ..... Meh, I better stop ...”

“Oh, Ms. Airi, why aren't you asking me?”

“Eh ~~~~, no point when the answer is clear.”

“You should ask Kiriko.” Amane said loudly.

“What do you mean I should ask Kiriko? I will ask... Gyokuren-chan!” Airi put her hands on Gyokuren's shoulder.

“Seina-sama ... ... Please don't push yourself, I pray for you to return home safely.”

“.....”

Everyone except Hakuren was left speechless from Gyokuren's polite language and her wholesome smile.

“Oh, why are you all staring at me?”

“Wow, how cute, Gyokuren-chan! I've never seen you act so proper!”

“Oh Ho Ho,” Gyokuren princess laughed, and it hurt Airi’s ears.

“Jeeze, how frustrating! Your masters going off to the battle field! You should show him off in style! Let's get rid of these!” Airi started to try to remove Gyokuren's clothes.

“Haha, sure Airi, let's show off in naked aprons, or maybe we should wear nothing but a large shirt?” Hakuren said. Everyone except Hakuren got nervous while thinking about it. They all laughed at the ridiculousness of it.

“Ahahahaha ~~~~! Hey... Hey Seina-chan, which one do you prefer, a naked apron or nothing but a large over-sized shirt?” Airi asked Seina as she hugged Gyokuren.

But instead of waiting for an answer, she barfed and passed out.

* * * **Translators’ note: Foreshadowing!** * * *

About three hours later, Airi was passed out, and the banquet had ended. Seina went to the bathroom to get ready for bed. Hakuren and Gyokuren went to sleep. Erma went to her room, Kiriko and Karen were cleaning up in the kitchen.

“Oh, Kiriko ... can I talk to you a bit in private?” Amane said when she saw Kiriko was done cleaning.

“What's wrong, Amane?”

“I want to talk to you about tomorrow.”

“Is it about Seina-chan?”

“No, it's no big deal, I'm just a little worried.”

“Okay, Karen, please take care of the rest of the dishes for me.”

“Shall I bring you some tea?”

“No thanks, this won't take that long.”

Amane took Kiriko with her and left the kitchen to go out to the veranda

There was a pleasant sea breeze blowing, and in the nearby yacht harbor, luxurious cruisers were lit up as they docked in the harbor. Thanks to the absence of city light, the night sky was full of

twinkling stars above Amane's luxury apartment penthouse. Despite her rough appearance, which consisted of cut jeans and a tank top, Amane appeared beautiful like a Goddess against the night background.

(She looks like a painting) Kiriko thought.

“Oh, what is it? Kiriko ... Well why are you staring at me?”

Kiriko snapped back to reality. Amane had that effect on people since childhood. She dressed roughly and acted tough unconsciously as a means of self-defense, so that she would not attract people more than necessary.

“Well ... I was just distracted, with you standing out here it sort of looks like a fancy painting.”

“Hah ... ... well this kind of location and atmosphere probably fits Gyokuren better.”

“Stop it, stop it, I want to throw up at that idea!”

Kiriko shuddered. She pictured it and felt a strange feeling in herself. Gyokuren was like a moon Goddess, and she doubled her beauty at night. Her biggest problem was, unlike Amane, Gyokuren made no attempts to restrict her attractive powers.

“I want to pound that bitch right in the face ...” Kiriko brought up a trembling fist.

“You know, your defense instinct is far too strong! ... I was just joking.”

“Whatever... what did you want to talk with me about ...?” Kiriko deflected her eyes from Amane and regained her calm while taking a deep breath.

“Oh, I think this situation that Seina's is about to be in is somewhat different from usual.” Amane told Kiriko about what Mikami had told her earlier that day.

“I know that Seina is needed and he just wants to help... but how do I put this ... I feel like they're going overboard. In any case, if Seina wants to do this I support him...but what do you think about this Kiriko?”

Kiriko thought carefully for a while on how to respond to Amane's words. And slowly, she began to reply “Regarding things with Miki, I admit I became a bit obsessed ..... But Seina has made his decision on this. I know he won't change his mind, so I think that there is no other choice for me but to support Seina under these conditions.”

“Well anyways, thank you for taking the time to hear me out.”

“I'm glad that you care about the small details Amane. Thank you.”

The two confirmed each other's concern and their worries were dispelled, they were glad that they were not alone in carrying Seina's bad luck. They smiled.

“Kiriko, don't you have somewhere to be tomorrow?”

“Yes, I should get ready for bed.”

The next day, Kiriko got up and left for work before Seina got up. When he woke up Seina headed to the GP headquarters satellite.

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“What do I do now?” Seina was lost.

The guide map inside the GP headquarters satellite was very confusing for Seina. It twisted and turned and was intertwined a lot, but it consisted of simple passages. It was like a maze. He confirmed his place on the map but a wall that was not on the map was standing in front of him.

“Again...? Well.... I guess I'm just lost now.” Seina stood there confused. “I should have brought NB ...”

From the window to the side of him he could see the academy's star.

He stood and looked out for a moment at the cargo ships leaving the planet. One passed right by the window, he lost track of time until he noticed someone humming in the distance.

“... ... Who's there?” Seina called. The source of the humming came closer, he recognized the voice.

Mitoto approached wearing the same uniform as when we first met her, she was enthusiastically cleaning the passages.

“Ms. Mitoto!”

“Ohh ... . Oh! ~ ~ Seina-chan! Long time no see~” Mitoto gladly ran over to Seina and began petting him like a puppy. “Why are you in such a place?”

“I'm supposed to be going to practical training for decoy division ... ... I'm a little lost.”

“Oh, that's right, this satellite is under construction now, and it must be confusing. I'll show you around.”

“But aren't you working ... ...”

“I'll do my job as we walk, please come with me.” Mitoto smiled and went forward while sweeping the floor. Seina followed Mitoto.

There were 5 rings that surround the solar system of the academy like a birdcage. One for public use, one for the academy. One for the GP, and two were privately owned by philosophers.

The battleship Rinamiku left from the large dock at the 278th station of the Galactic Army's section of the GP's exclusive ring. It went through a brand new state of the art one way transfer gate and was several hundred light years from the academy in only a few minutes.

“Reporting: No problem with the ship!”

“Errors are within expected range.” Reports from operators resonated on the bridge.

Although it was a battleship, the interior of the bridge was unexpectedly narrow, with only room for five operator seats and two information officers' seated above them. There was a seat for the Captain somewhat behind that. But Captain Rise Romlair, who should have been there, was standing next to the Information Officer's seat where Kiriko sat in a military uniform.

“I appreciate you joining us on such short notice.”

“No problem, you've always been there for me Captain. It's the least I could do.”

“I heard about the nightmare you're facing ... ... I'm sorry ... I know he's like a brother to you. I'm still surprised. I always thought you would make an excellent military officer, you're fit to command even the highest ranked army flagship, and yet you've ended up an Academy instructor.”

“The decision wasn't mine to make.”

“But finally, both you and he are in the same place, you must be happy about that.”

“As you know, Seina is a human from an early civilization stage planet that was allowed to go up to space as a special case. So there are many things about everyday life here that I still need to teach him and being his instructor gives me the flexibility to do that. It would cause more trouble for the military for me to be in them then if I weren't right now but I appreciate the praise.”

“Hmm, I see, maybe, well if the results are good, there's really no reason to worry about the process.”

At that time, the bridge of the operator Yelled out to the bridge. “Captain! We have discovered an unknown ship in direction 070. Number 3!”

“Distance 1050. It appears to have noticed us, they're closing.”

Kiriko quickly analyzed the information.

“It's a pirate ship belonging to Da Ruma Guild. The remaining one is an unidentified ship but it is a remodeled ship...Class D-4.” Kiriko projected the data on the main screen, Captain Rise returned to the Captain's seat and quickly confirmed the data displayed on the screen.

“With our ship we could easily sink them, but for now the mission is top priority, accelerate and let's ditch them.”

“To find this ship with a Storming Block ... ... is it a coincidence?” Kiriko's doubt was quickly resolved.

“Captain, Code 064! We have discovered non-crew life reactions in passage E-13!”

“ID check, hurry!”

A screen with the intruders on information and a screen with a feed of the intruders popped up.

“What! That's Mitoto Kuramitsu... ....” The Captain looked amazed, but then he saw another person next to her.

“Another one ... ... he must have gotten caught up in Mitoto-san's cleaning.”

“Wait, that's Seina-chan!”

“What!?”

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In the halls of the Rinamiku, Mitoto and Seina mopped unaware they had arrived on the ship.

“Oh wow these halls are beautiful.” Mitoto said wiping sweat off her head, she looked at the shiny hallway.

“Yes it sure is, Oh Ms. Mitoto ... ... By the way, is this the way to the decoy division ...?”

Ms. Mitoto, looked around strangely before grabbing Seina by the hand and walking confidently forward.

“Oh, is this it?” Mitoto took Seina and went through the door marked dining room.

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On the main monitor of the bridge was Mitoto, who seemed to be happily eating pudding in the dining room, as Seina looked at Mitoto in a puzzled manner beside her.

“They seem to have stopped in mess hall!”

“Alright, close the bulkhead! Keep an eye on them!”

“Roger that!”

“That's him, right? I'd send a welcome party but the puddings beat me to it. I wonder how they got on board.” Captain Rise breathed a big sigh, and leaned back into his chair, as he looked at the picture of Mitoto who was eating pudding.

“Please excuse my student ...”

“No, it's an honor to be able to have Seina Yamada on board, I'm interested in seeing his abilities...”

“New emergency! Localized spacial distortion to starboard, 150 units away. They’re jumping out of hyperspace!”

“Are they crazy, they’re going to land right on top of us!” A thing like despair floated in the expression of the operator.

“There is no doubt from the distortion waveforms and the energy mass, it's the Daedalus!” The air inside the bridge grew heavy, the operators were silent.

Originally Daedalus was not a ship's name, but rather was a class of ship belonging to the Tarrant Guild, which was said to be rivals with the Da Ruma Guild in the past. It was a heavy duty, top of the line battleship, built with abundant technical capabilities, and it struck fear in the memories of the members of the Galaxy federation. In the age of mass-produced ships, it was still said to be the strongest even then, and it had sunk many GP Army ships before. All the other Daedalus class battleships built in the past had to be destroyed by Royal Tree Ships. This Daedalus class battleship was said to be the last of them. So they knew whose it was.

“That's the Daedalus ..... Tarrant Shank we meet at last!”

There was no escaping this. Their opponent was a violent psychopath who had killed numerous people. They were known for destroying ships without warning and they took no prisoners. Their ship which resembled a sperm whale was the Moby Dick of the galaxy, and it threatened to swallow them all.

“Report the Daedalus's appearance to headquarters! Quickly accelerate and get us out of the field of the spacial distortion. Prepare for random jump. We must escape by any means.” Captain Ries issued orders as he clenched his fist.

“Gravity Bombardment Injection!”

Explosive thunder echoed from a barrage shot out from the back of the Rinamiku. It detonated in front of the Daedalus. If it was a normal ship, it would have lost power.

After the Daedalus was enveloped in the explosion, the Rinamiku tried to get away by accelerating at full speed.

The inside of the bridge of the Daedalus did not even shake from the terrible explosive barrage. The bridge was a kind of strange space that looked like a huge food processing factory, it was composed only of silver metal except for the seats.

“Hehehe ... ...”

Tarrant's beautiful brown skin and silver haired face gazed at the Rinamiku with eyes full of madness. The Rinamiku reflected on the central monitor as he watched his prey. Tarrant shifted his gaze to a small monitor on the side.

“Is that the target?” Next to Tarrant, a young aide asked.

“Yes, make sure they’re captured alive this time. I want to enjoy torturing them.” Tarrant gazed at the monitor. Kiriko was reflected on it.

The Daedalus shot a tractor beam at the Rinamiku and it slowed it in its tracks. It then launched dozens of tentacles called tow beams at the ship that pierced its hull.

A fierce shock hit the bridge of the Rinamiku.

“Arm the torpedoes, launch them at Daedalus! Don't think about the damage to our ship just fire!” Captain Ries ordered, all weapons that could hit the testicles were fired.

“It's not working!”

“It's useless! We can't destroy the tow beams, the ship is being pulled towards them!”

(This must be a raid... ...) Captain Ries realized that attack had happened right during a shift change, it was too well thought out and precise to not be pre-arranged.

(Sudden changes in personnel is common when special experiments are carried out, but considering the contents of the experiment, there were also many personnel changes that had happened that were not necessary ... ... No way!?)

Captain Ries looked at Kiriko, who seemed not to be bothered by the ongoing situation.

This experiment was being carried out to test the new systems they planned to use to intercept the Space Pirates that Seina lured when working as a decoy.

Ries came to the conclusion that this was probably a betrayal from the military sector of the GP who wanted to increase their own power and restore the army back to how it was before the establishment of the galactic federation.

(But it's also true that they put Kiriko, who looks after Seina, here. She is too close to Seina ... They must want her out of the way ...) Captain Ries squeezed his hands and closed his eyes, to shake off the thoughts in his head.

“.....”

Kiriko looked with a sorrowful look at Seina and Mitoto who were buried in the mountain of pudding that collapsed on them when the ship shook.

“Captain, decks 4 and 5 have been breached!” Kiriko said.

“Red alert!”

“Do you still have Ms. Mitoto and Seina Yamada on lockdown?”

“Yes! No, wait ... ... I lost the two of them!” There were no figures on the monitor where they were before. And shockingly the pudding scattered on the floor had been beautifully cleaned up.

“... ... Kiriko go search inside the ship, hurry! I've prepared the escape pods!”

Kiriko ran off the bridge.

“Daedalus approaching! They are injecting raiding tubes, they've pierced the hull.”

“Try closing the bulkheads on them. Initiate protocol Z01.”

“Z01 started! All the partition walls of each passage have shifted to manual operation and the escape pods are ready!”

Captain Rise looked at where Kiriko had sat. Kiriko was a person connected to the blood of Jurai's Masaki family. Due to her highly skilled nature, there was a rumor that she might be one of Seto's spies. But since Jurai had the superior decision-making authority towards the GP and the Academy, there was no necessary information for them to be worried about her getting as a spy, but he was still worried about her survival.

(Do not forget the glory of the old days you idiot! You know how skilled she is ... Don't die, Kiriko)

A needle-like raiding tube extending from Daedalus penetrated the ship and had melted its hull armor. At the same time, it penetrated and destroyed the internal intercom systems. The hatch of a raiding tube opened, heavily equipped space pirates came out followed by Tarrant Shank.

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Kiriko was lurking outside the mouth of the Daedalus's raiding tube. She inspected it and launched a monitor to hack into the Daedalus’s computer, she began sending it false data. Kiriko took off the uniform she was wearing and grasped her fist tight.

The white under-suit of the GP military she was wearing turned into a black battle suit. Kiriko looked inside the tube at the surveillance equipment inside. She turned on her optical camouflage, disappeared and went inside the tube. She soon came to the transfer ring and jumped in without hesitation.

Seina was depressed by his own stupidity as an alarm sounded. He realized that this was not the main floor of the GP and that Mitoto had gotten him stuck in some weird place. (Many people have told me that letting Mitoto-san clean is dangerous ... ... I remember when I was on the way to the GP Academy, Onnainin was in a hurry to pick up Mitoto-sama's mop ...)

Seina, took Mitoto's mop and looked around here and there. Looking for clues that would tell him where he was.

“Seina-chan, that's my Mop! ~~~” Mitoto stretched out her hands desperately trying to get her mop back. He had to reprimand Mitoto like a small child before she realized she wasn't getting it back.

“Stop! We've ended up in someplace strange, we have to figure out where we are!”

“?????? ..... oh you’re right ... I though this layout seemed odd.” Mitoto finally began looking around, when she noticed someone suddenly walking towards her. She pointed to the man who appeared from the side passage.

“Shall I ask him?”

“Huh?” Seina, looked where Mitoto pointed, he felt a strong sense of danger. There was Tarrant Shank smiling at him as he pointed a gun at Mitoto.

However, Mitoto approached Tarrant unprotected without fear of anything at all. “Hello there sir, May I ask you a question?”

Mitoto was quickly pulled away from Tarrant by Seina.

“You!” Tarrant instantly switched aim to Seina and pulled the trigger, Seina threw the mop he had as a spear.

“Huh!”

Tarrant did not expect he would use the mop as a weapon, and so his guardian system did not recognize the mop as a threat, and since Seina was now doubly Bio-Enhancement he was able to make a large gap between him and Tarrant. Seina ran away from Tarrant holding Mitoto.

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Kiriko came out of the transfer ring on the Daedalus. However, she did not see any sign that there were people on board. It looked like an empty warehouse on the inside.

“Although it's huge on the outside, it's fairly small on the inside, it must be mostly armor... ... the interior seems to be made from the same material. Eww.....!” Kiriko held her nose, she could smell the smell of rotting corpses in the air. (Whatever, just get to the bridge.) Kiriko switched to battle mode again.

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Seina was running with Mitoto. He took a corner to avoid being shot at by Tarrant. Seina was sensitive to malice, he knew how to sense it and thanks to his Bio - Enhancement he could easily avoid Tarrant’s shots.

“Wow ~ ~ Seina, you’re amazing ~~” Mitoto admired Seina.

“What do you mean?”

Like Mitoto, Tarrant was also impressed with Seina's escape technique. However, Seina kept running into space pirates and had to keep taking alternative paths. Behind him he could still sense Tarrant chasing him. Eventually, he hit a dead ended passage

He put Mitoto behind him and used himself as a shield.

Tarrant caught up to a straight aisle.

“Ahahahaha!” Tarrant laughed, looking at Mitoto and Seina who were desperate to escape.

“I might as well play with you before I kill you ...” Tarrant stretched out his hand and shot his gun without aiming.

Seina narrowly avoided it.

Then Tarrant aimed at his shoulder. But when he went to pull the trigger the wall next to him blew up messing up his shot and out came shielded escort guards in front of them.

They began shooting at Tarrant and got Seina out of the dead end when suddenly Tarrant's guardian began to semi-materialize into a figure that lunged at Seina, an escort guard jumped out to protect Seina.

“Run away ... ... That's Tarrant Shank.”

Even though the soldier was injured, he managed to stand for a bit more so Seina could have more time to run away. A guard ran off with Mitoto.

“Tarrant? ..... Ah!” Seina remembered his name and the warning Komachi had given him.

“He was the one who killed everyone on that space station ... run away!” Seina was shocked, the guards words were supposed to scare him instead they made him pause dead in his tracks

(Space station! then, he's ... ... Miki-senpai ... ...) Seina stood there as the guards tried to fend off Shank. “That bastard!” He began running away.

Tarrant's guardian's arms swiped down the solders and when guns came out of the wall it destroyed them too.

“Get out of my way!” Tarrant had made up his mind, his new target was Seina. He finished off the guards and started to follow Seina as soon they were dead.

Kiriko reached the bridge of the Daedalus without much hindrance. Senior officials and operators were absorbed in looking at the images sent from the surveillance camera of the Rinamiku so they did not notice Kiriko's invasion. They were unexpectedly relaxed for the gruesome display they were watching unfold.

Kiriko started checking on the Daedalus from the terminal as they were distracted. (... .... What is this? This isn't the bridge?) It was just a place that the crew could do minimal controls from, she couldn't access much from there.

(Tarrant clearly doesn't trust his crew members, although that's not surprising, they're pirates... ...oh!) Kiriko, tried to think of what to do next when she heard a soliloquy from one of the pirates.

“Uhuhu ..... No way, he's got Seina Yamada and Mitoto Kuramitsu on the run. This day's just getting better and better.”

(Seina-chan!) Kiriko saw Seina running away from Tarrant on one of the feeds.

“This is almost as good as the other day on the space station... Hehehe, run you little brat!”

Kiriko grew angry at the operators words. As expected, Seina had made himself a decoy. (Why did I take Amane's words so lightly!? I should have known this would have happened with Seina's bad luck!) Kiriko saw Amane's worries becoming a reality

Kiriko was overwhelmed with rage as she stood witnessing the pirates disgusting glee. Her anger reached its peak and she snapped. All reasoning and planning left her mind and Kiriko's went on a murderous rampage killing every one of the operators.

Suddenly, crack! A sound rang out as the head of an operator suddenly rolled off. The expression that the head had when it hit the ground was a fitting one.

“What's that?” The operators noticed something holding up the operator’s torso as blood spewed out of his neck, and soon began to uncloak behind him covered in his blood that was flowing like a fountain.

“Aaaaaah!” The operators cried out in fear.

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(Damn it! Damn it! Damn it! Damn it! Damn it!) Seina cursed to himself as he ran. He wanted to turn back and slay Miki's murderer but he was instinctively set on escaping. He was very frustrated. (Damn it! Damn it! Damn it! Damn it! Damn it!)

For Seina, the danger of death existed on a daily basis. He was always prepared for it. But he couldn't stand the idea of getting others involved with it. But there were always people who insisted on getting involved with him. Like the people village of Masaki such as Kiriko, Kai, and Tsukiko, or the people from the Masaki family such as Tenchi and Kiyone, and people he met in space, including Mitoto and Seto ... and Miki. (Damn it! Damn it! Damn it! Damn it! Damn it!)

He felt so frustrated when he thought that Miki had seen such a thing. He thought of how frightened she must have been when she encountered him and when he killed her and how she probably had to endure seeing everyone who fell behind her die the whole time and everyone else on that space station had to endure the same thing. Thinking about the sorrow of those people, drove him crazy.

Since he had come to space he had heard there was a strange rule between the GP and Space Pirates, but he was keenly aware of it in this moment. Even though science was very developed here, human lives was still unrecoverable. Those people were gone forever. The GP and other space pirates knew that and that's why they were so careful about how they treated the space pirate situation. They didn't want a full on war. The rule made perfect sense. But Tarrant didn't care, he just enjoyed making people unhappy. He enjoyed ending people's lives.

(That bastard!) That was the first time Seina had ever felt hate towards someone. He felt intense discomfort with the feeling and he felt even more knowing he was helpless to do anything about it.

"I'm getting bored of this .... It's about time I finished this up and took you back to the Daedalus with me." Tarrant aimed at Seina's leg.

Bang! Suddenly the bulkhead behind Seina closed, and his energy bullets were deflected by the bulkhead.

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"Captain! We've protected Ms. Mitoto. It seems our security guards have been injured though."

"What about Seina Yamada?"

"He has been keeping Tarrant distracted ... ."

"... ... Indeed, it's just as was rumored, he is a splendid decoy." In the ship's interior Captain Rise, monitored a bunch of color coded life reactions on a map of the ship.

The light spots of all the Space Pirates were moving to follow the light spot showing Seina who was heading to the bridge.

“Thanks to him everyone else has safely evacuated except for the security guards.”

“Should we restore automatic control of the bulkheads?”

“No, there is still a possibility of them hijacking control if we do!”

“Can we at least raise the one on the bridge so they can get in?”

“Roger that!”

The operator raised the bulk head quickly. Before lowered it again.

“Ah ~ ~ ~, Rise-chan.” Mitoto appeared on the bridge with a cry of relief and her arms stretched out.

“Why are you here?”

“I'm sorry I got lost ...”

“Captain! The bulkhead is going to be broken!” The operator screamed so that escort soldiers would cover Mitoto. In the ship's surveillance video, Tarrant was beginning to destroying the bulkhead with his guardian system.

“What a guardian, he must have spared no expense ..... There's no choice, Ms. Mitoto, come here.”

Mitoto came up to the Captain's seat.

“Well ... well ... where is your officer? Who would abandon their post like this?” Mitoto was very observant. With minimal explanation she recognized the precise situation instantly.

“It's Kiriko Masaki.”

“Oh! You should have said so.” Mitoto gladly went to Kiriko's seat and began typing. She launched several monitors and confirmed the program Kiriko loaded. “... Ah, okay okay... ... everything looks ok. Hey, can you give me control of the bulkheads?”

“Uhm... sure...”

Mitoto was famous for funny rumors, but in fact, most people who mattered knew that she had very high operator abilities. The operator looked at Captain Rise troubled.

“Follow Mitoto's instructions!”

“Yes sir, on it!”

“Thank you.”

However as soon as Mitoto began controlling it, the fear of the operators dispersed. The pirates movements were completely quarantined, and she had effective put the security guards in favorable situations, as well as optimized the movement of the repairmen to important facilities, and sent support for Seina, etc.

“Wow, that's amazing ...” the operators were astounded with her supernatural skill.

“Hey Rise-chan, is Kiriko out there?”

“... ... Yes, but I've lost contact .....”

“ ..... Oh, it looks like her life signs just came back on board.”

“Huh!?”

“Her biological reaction is at the raiding tube where she disappeared.”

Captain Rise saw the place Mitoto pointed to. The biological reactions of the pirates who were in a nearly straight line heading to Seina behind the tube were disappearing one after another.

Mitoto made an odd face. “... .... Kiriko-chan, I know you're angry ... ... but please don't do that, Kiriko-chan.”

The pirates outside of the tube watched Kiriko appear before them with crazed eyes.

“Tarrant said this was getting boring but look, a pretty lady showed up.”

“He's more interested in leaving meat lumps then in piracy so I'm not surprised.”

“That's a weird way to describe his fetish.”

“Isn't that girl an affiliate of Seina Yamada's? We should capture her... I wonder if Tarrant will mind if we bring her back as a corpse...”

The conversation between them was interrupted there. Kiriko, who jumped out at them with tremendous momentum and in an instant threw them into the wall so hard that they bounced and fell back to the aisle looking like a broken stringed marionette tossed carelessly with its strings tangled up on the floor.

Normally they would have been alerted the second Kiriko began killing people on the bridge of the ship, but ironically the Daedalus had no such system because it was used to outclassing every ship and was hard to penetrate, also Tarrant was usually inside it and was enough of a security system to ward off intruders, he had the system in his own quarters because he was weary of his own crew. But he didn't care about the lives of those on his bridge or anywhere else on the ship so naturally, it was missing. So the system did not issue an alarm for the deaths of the adjutants and operators. And Tarrant himself, who was absorbed in pursuing Seina, forgot to check

regularly with the bridge and thus the pirates in the Rinamiku were unaware of what was coming after them.

Kiriko murdered pirates one after another with the slightest movement. They were scattered all over the walls of the passageway like balls. However, the physical burden on Kiriko to do this was also great. Her arms were damaged enough that high-performance restorative Nano-machines she had, that were as good as the ones in Seiryo, failed to keep up with the damage.

“!”

Kiriko ran in front of a hallway full of Space Pirates. A bulkhead controlled by Mitoto lowered. Kiriko quickly took a different route. Her goal was to reach Seina not to kill pirates. She had no intention to waste time breaking the bulkhead.

The partition walls that were lowered were calculated to give Kiriko time to be repaired by the Nano-machines and it was by no means the shortest route. Thanks to Mitoto the accumulation of damage Kiriko had received decreased, and both of Kiriko's arms were gradually regaining function.

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“Kiriko can protect Seina, we should escape.”

“Seina has disappeared.”

The biological reaction on the monitor disappeared one after another around Seina. It was due to damage to sensors from pirates trying to break the closed bulkheads.

“Please direct the nearby security guards to evacuate him as soon as possible!”

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Seina found himself in a state of exhaustion both physical and mental as he ran into a T shaped corridor. If it wasn't for the bulkhead that closed behind him he would have been either caught or killed. But now he was stuck.

“Fuck ... ... No!” Seina stood in the center of the T-junction looking for a way out, but the bulkheads on all the sides were sealed. From the left and the right he could hear pirates trying to break through them.

Behind him he heard Tarrant's guardian attempting to break through. A flame was coming out from the panel used to manually control the bulkhead. There were no windows and the ventilation shaft was molded into the wall so he couldn't cut into it with his knife and climb in.

The only thing saving him was that this corridor went to the secondary power furnace. So its bulkheads were made more robust than normal. Even Tarrant's guardian was having trouble destroying it.

“Heeeeh, Heee, Heeeeh, Haa ..... Heeeh .....”

Seina hyperventilated and looked at the bulkhead where Tarrant was trying to break in. He figured that if he cut a large hole in the bulkhead he could run past him.

A crack appeared in part of the bulkhead along with an unpleasant high-pitched metal sound.

Criiiing!

(Come on!) Contrary to his expectations there was only a small hole in the bulkhead.

“I know you’re in there.” Through that hole, Tarrant saw Seina and laughed.

Seina heard two gunshots and instinctively dodged, but tripped on his own foot and fell down. There was a small hole burnt in his thigh (If I hadn't moved he would've gotten both of my legs.)

The wall behind him that got hit by the shot that missed him had a huge hole in it like a crater about ten centimeters wide. Seina's injury was light only due to the special fabric used in his uniform but he had nowhere to run.

Tarrant's guardian reached into the hole and peeled it outward opening it up leaving a hole in it like a giant rock does a windshield. But just as the hole opened enough to allow one person to pass through, smoke came out of Tarrant's guardian generator.

“Aww, it was just getting fun ... .” Tarrant casually threw away the guardian generator, he looked at Seina and smiled. “I never expected to see you in such a place, Seina Yamada.”

“Ahh!” Seina stood up to drag himself away and stared at Tarrant. Even though Tarrant approached Seina and slowly thrust his gun at his forehead, Seina didn't flinch.

“You ... You killed Miki senpai!”

“Miki? Hmm, you seem to have a grudge against me, I share your resentment, but I can't help you with yours.”

“Resentment?”

“Do you know how shameful it is to be the son of an incompetent man who was caught in a snare by a single GP ship? Because of that shame you brought on them, I had to kill both my father and my older brother.” Tarrant quickly shot the gun that was stuck to Seina's forehead at Seina's right hand.

“Good!”

Tarrant looked at Seina with interest, as Seina grabbed his injured right arm and collapsed.

“If I hit you directly I can easily blow off your arms and legs even with GP student clothing's advanced protection features ehehehehehehehe.”

“nnnnnnn!” Seina, who felt humiliated by Tarrant's laughter, stood up using the wall to support himself while holding his leg which was in intense pain. He glared at Tarrant.

“Heehehe ... ... Don't think I'll let you die so easy. I will resuscitate you as many times as I can just to kill you again and again ... I have plenty of ideas of what to do once you’re brought back to the Daedalus”!

Suddenly the bulkhead behind the Tarrant broke down as there was an explosion. Tarrant reflexively grabbed Seina's neck and went behind him to use him as a shield.

“..... !!”

Tarrant stuck a gun to Seina's head as Kiriko stopped just a meter in front of them in a fighting posture. She looked like a wild beast, her face was hidden by her long hair, and her facial expression couldn't be seen. It spooked Tarrant but only for a few seconds, Tarrant had just barely dodged an attack that would've taken off his head.

“Do it, I dare you!” Reflectively Tarrant fired at Kiriko, but Kiriko dodged backwards.

“Don't move! Show your face.” Tarrant again shouted pointing the gun at Seina's head.

However, looking at Kiriko who slowly raised her face, Tarrant became stunned as if his soul passed out of his body.

“...Beautiful.”
Beautiful and supple limbs. Her entire body was splattered with blood, and her eyes had an overpowering coldness in them. Tarant was entranced by Kiriko in an instant, and he even felt a strong desire.

“…… Beautiful.” Tarrant didn't think, he murmured.

Her beautifully supple limbs. Her whole body bathed in blood, her cold eyes with tremendous pressure. Like a man who had just met a female of the same kind as himself, Tarrant was fascinated by Kiriko and in that moment he felt intense lust.

In that moment of fascination towards Kiriko, the muzzle of Tarrant's gun, slightly turned away from Seina.

“!”

Seina felt that there was a gap in Tarrant's aim, he grasped the special steel knife he had in his pocket with his left hand. The same one that he used the other day to cut the gel that he was stuck in on the training ship. Long ago

in the country side of japan, boys would use that kind of knife to whittle wood and bamboo to make a toys to play with, or to cut vegetables and fruit to eat, or to mark trees or catch insects. The knife was an important tool for living and playing in nature.

In Seina's case, it was a versatile tool used to cut splints and medicinal herbs when injured, and cut bandages that had gotten stuck. However, it wasn't just a tool but a weapon. Seina had never pointed a knife at anyone, not even once, and never even thought of it.

Seina pretended Tarrant's arm was a mass of vines entangling him as he stabbed into Tarrant's arm with his knife and pulled it down.

“Gyaaaaaah!” Tarrant was shocked, the sudden pain was just like a surprise sting by a bee. He tried to hit Seina with the butt of his gun to shake off him reflexively.

“……Oops!” When Tarrant realized his mistake, Seina had already dodged and fallen at Kiriko's feet.

The death of Tarrant who had just lost his hostage and didn't have a guardian was certain. But Tarrant remembered the terrible pleasure of Seina's fear. He was looking forward to the moment Kiriko would arrive and be knocked down by the pressure of his murderous intent. But Tarrant's expectations had been shattered. The eyes of Kiriko that he found beautiful were directed to Seina, not him, and it upset him.

“What a sight to behold in front of me!” Tarrant felt the flames of a lover being cheated on towards Seina.

“Get back he's Dangerous!” Kiriko's shielded Seina as Tarrant fired at her suit which absorbed the energy bullets, but it couldn't survive the overload of energy caused by them, Kiriko's suit stopped functioning.

The next hit she took would have hurt her but she thought quickly and picked up a small piece of the bulkhead that had fallen on the floor and threw it at Tarrant's gun.

Krickckik! His gun sounded as if spun away from him. Tarrant raced for the gun and Kiriko rushed him. But an explosion burst out at them.

“Damn it, ahhh!”

“Tarrant-sama!”

“Huh!!”

The space pirates had succeeded in breaking the other bulkhead. They began shooting at Kiriko. She had no shielding so she quickly fell back and grabbed Seina and began escaping. Seina's safety was more important to her then Tarrant's capture.

“Shoot! Don't let them escape! I'll kill you! I'll kill you! I will ...kill you!” Tarrant picked up the gun and began running down the path following Kiriko. However, at that time, Tarrant noticed an emergency call from Daedalus. (An emergency from the core block! What is the staff on the bridge doing?) Tarrant, who accessed the bridge, finally noticed everyone aboard was dead. Core block warnings were often serious. When he saw the reading he panicked.

“This energy to mass ratio!?” The data sent from the core block indicated the approach of a Juraian Royal ship.

“Pull out! A Juraian Royal ship is approaching!” Tarrant regained calmness and shouted to his men.

“What!”

“Quick to the emergency evacuation tube, hurry up!”

“What about the other people?”

“If you don't make it in time, you'll die.”

The pirates began to run in a hurry.

Tarrant glared in the direction Kiriko ran off in. “Listen carefully, no matter where you run, I'll be sure to find out and then I'll kill you!” Tarrant screamed.

“Captain! Are you coming aboard? The Daedalus is leaving!”

“Should we sink the Rinamiku first? Set side shields to maximum! Get ready to attack!”

“We don't have time. We have to jump now!”

× × ×

“Eh?”

The next moment Captain Ries and Mitoto saw the figure of Daedalus start to distort as it jumped to super space with violent vibrations.

“What's wrong?”

“I don't understand……”

However, to replace it, a tremendous shock hit the ship where Daedalus had jumped from.

“Uwaaaa! Is this the shock of the jump!? ... ... did the Daedalus escape?”

However once the shock had gone away the monitors came back online to reveal that the Mikagami had taken its place.

As usual, Seto's ship was the subject of awe, but at this time the operators of the bridge raised their voices in joy as they saw it.

“No way! We were helped by the Demon Princess of Jurai?! ... ... Oops, uhm... Ms. Mitoto, can you keep that statement confidential?” Captain Ries was relieved to have encountered the Daedalus and suffered such little damage.

“Let's get everyone to the evacuation pods.” Mitoto said in a relaxed tone, they got in and gel for shock absorption filled the evacuation pods.

Chapter Five: Loss and Determination

Orbiting the main star of the academy was a medical treatment facility. There was a beautiful garden at the top of the GP advanced medical satellite.

Many people came to see it and enjoyed relaxing at its entrance. The rest of the floor was filled with information desks.

As if to break that silence, Amane jumped out of the elevator. Her beautiful face instantly gathered the eyes of everyone there. Amane had clearly been overwhelmed with tears, still no one was able to look away until she disappeared from their view. Amane didn't hesitate to come into Seina's hospital room, she went in without knocking. The interior was surprisingly silent, as if there was no one there.

Seina sat up in the sofa-shaped bed that looked out over the wide garden, the usual noisy NB was sitting casually next to him. It looked like a toy casually placed in a child's room.

Amane visually confirmed that Seina was ok, and she sighed with great relief. She sat down loudly as if to show off her presence in the chair next to the bed. Amane was staring at the same scenery as Seina without saying a word, he blended into the scenery.

The room was quiet for a long time but its atmosphere had definitely changed with Amane's presence. It was as if the sun of the spring had come in to melt the snow.

“..... Five people died on that ship .....” Like a drop of water dripping from a melted pillar of ice, Seina began talking. “But even then ... ... All I could do was try to escape ... ... Although I hate him, he scared me ... I wanted to stop him, but my body ran away ... .” Seina's voice gradually trembled.

“And even though Kiriko saved me ... ... I couldn't do anything ..... even Kiriko, who helped me this time, was scared ...”

Seina had been mulling over just how much others had to pay to fulfill his own dreams. He clenched his fist over his knee firmly and a drop of tears fell on top of it.

Amane stood up and seated herself next to Seina, and she gripped his trembling shoulder and hand tightly as if holding him from behind. “Do you want to quit the GP?”

“... no I still ... I have to ... I wish I could ...” Seina could not afford to pay the price to stay there, but his selfish feelings of wanting to be there were merciless.

– – – – But that wasn't something that Seina alone had to bear. Is what Amane wanted to say. However, it wasn't easy to take such a heavy burden off of Seina.

“I regret, I regret that I want to be strong ...”

“.....” Amane still stared at Seina.

The person that made Seina want to become strong was Kiriko, not Amane. But for Amane it did not matter. Seina's thoughts were decided by love. Of course for her it was still like, not love. But in that moment Seina made a special place for himself in her heart.

"... .... I ... I don't want to quit." Seina held onto her tight and powerfully said so.

"It's alright. Everything's going to be fine." Amane stroked Seina's head a bit roughly and warmly embraced him. "... ... then I'll help you." She whispered into Seina's ears gently like a little kiss.

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In the living room of Amane's penthouse, Airi was busy peeping at Seina's state in the hospital room through NB. Not just Airi, but the Hakuren's quartet and Erma watched and were also crying as they watched the moving scene.

"Hey, what are you doing?! Mind your own business! You'll disturb Kirche." Airi yelled at the other five people. It reminded them of when they were watching Seina met Tennyo.

"You're unbelievable, Airi-san."

"I agree with you all," said Mikami.

"Why are you here ... ...? No way!" Airi looked up from NB's monitor. She tried to run off but Mikami grabbed her and restrained her.

"I was silent before with Minaho and her secretaries*, but I think that recently Airi-san's behavior has gone a bit too far, Ho ho Ho."

*** * * Translators' note: (*) Surprise! Her secretaries are Mizune, Fuuka and Otoka from OVA 4. So technically this is one of their first canon mentions. * * ***

"Eh!" Airi's face instantly turned pale.

"We also want to talk to you about various things, so let's go to the president's office."

"No, please! I'll be a good girl, there's no need to punish me!"

It felt like watching a mother dragging off a child to their punishment as Airi was taken with Mikami.

“I feel a bit sorry for her, but ... we have work to do, so let's go back to it.” Hakuren said. Everyone in the place agreed and went back to their respective jobs.

“86 people injured, five dead ... ... for an encounter with Tarrant · Shank, it's amazing we got away with this little damage.”

Airi was reading a report as she was lying on the sofa in the reception room next to the President's office. Regardless of her appearance, Mikami had scolded her severely just moments before and from the expression on Airi's face, was an extremely serious thing as she returned to sanity.

“Records of Ms. Kiriko's invasion of the Daedalus have been removed from the records and reports and the bridge personnel also been coordinated at the meeting with Captain Ries. But there is no way to hide the Space Pirate's killed inside the ship, so it's been decided that we’re blaming it on a malfunction of Airi's prototype equipment.”

“Well, thanks... I guess we’re lucky that I did in fact help make Kiriko's equipment...”

“I'm sorry to say that we were unable to destroy the Daedalus. To be honest, if she had managed to get into the core, it could have resulted in an even worse situation ...”

“There are a lot of people who would blow a gasket if they knew that we skipped over a chance to destroy the Daedalus.”

“Letting you clean this mess up worries me more than the thought of the complaints, Ho Ho Ho.”

“Well, it's still the least bad thing that could have happened ... It's just a miracle they survived encountering the Daedalus.”

“If you ask me, it looks like there was a spy on board.”

Some GP and military members send information to space pirates in order to get a share of the goods they plunder.

“It's currently under investigation.”

“We’re lucky that the Captain managed to get out of that situation.”

“That's true but rumors are spreading from the surviving staff of the ship. We’re having trouble finding a crew to assign to Seina's decoy division team, everyone we tried to have requested a transfer or resigned.”

“I don't blame them, if Seina was on board they probably would have been half as likely to be attacked. Why don't we just make Seina the ship’s Captain?”

“ ..... That’s not a bad idea, but what about the Captain Promotion standards? There's nothing we can do about changing the required working hours necessary for promotion.”

“They are a specially affiliated team reporting directly to me, there should be no problem if I attach some assistants. It will also be a good excuse not to let outsiders close to the “Kamidake” before its actual debut. We can make Kiriko an assistant, I can't complain about that and so then no one else will have any room to complain.”

“Nevertheless, the GP is still strongly tied to the Seniwan family, there's a possibility that criticisms will concentrate on Seina if you make it a small tight knit crew and this is Seina we’re talking about. You need to take measures to make sure there is no friction at all. Okay, let's use Mitoto's cleaning department.”

“Ah yes... the second information department ... that should work...”

Mitoto's cleaning department performed maintenance and inspections, and in the case of GP vessels, they cleaned everywhere. They specialized in not just the removal of garbage and dust, but also various high level radioactive substances and hazardous materials, they cleaned down to the gun barrel and where known for doing a first class job.

The cleaning personnel never came in direct contact with confidential information, but from what they overheard, they had quite a wide range of advanced information. And there were many people who consulted them on various matters. The staff used that to make some income on the side and most were very well taken care of.

“Ho ho ho, in that case we should be fine.”

“If we do this, Seina should be able to fulfill the official Captain's promotion criteria by the time he graduates.”

“Huhuhu ... ... this will be fun. Well then, shall we arrange for Kiriko and the rest to join the Kamidake's crew?” Without waiting for Airi to finish speaking, Mikami launched a monitor.

“... .... Kiriko Masaki report to the principal's office ... as soon as possible .....” Mikami bowed to Airi who headed to the transfer gate.

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A few dozen minutes later, in the principal's office of the GP Academy, Mikami and Kiriko were sitting opposite each other. The damage to Kiriko had been much more severe than Seina's but she only needed an hour to heal. But one part had not healed was the bruise in her heart.

(Seina has seen it) She rescued him while covered in blood, it couldn't really be helped in that situation though. She had showed a part of herself to him that she never wanted him to see. Kiriko sighed a second time since she sat down. Every time she sighed she deflated like a balloon and slipped downwards in her seat.

(Ho ho Ho) Mikami was enjoying the sight. It would have been easy to put air in that deflated balloon, but she wanted to see that sight just a little more.

It reminded her of when she first met Kiriko. A few years before, Seto happily introduced her to Mikami. The first time she met with Kiriko was after a decade of Kiriko's education and training in a special acceleration space a year earlier. She was similar to Funaho when she was young. At least Mikami thought so from her first impression. Of course she knew that Kiriko was from the Royal Masaki Family and she had heard about her from Airi and Minaho to a certain extent. But Kiriko was more like Funaho than anyone she had ever met.

* * * **Translators' note: So Kiriko is over 29 technically... even though only 19 years have passed since she was born. That clears up where that weird rumor of her actually being like 30 came from. But no one in universe seems to count time accelerated aging. * * ***

(Well, I might as well do this now) Mikami pushed a letter plate in front of Kiriko.

"... Is this a Transfer?"

"Yes."

"... Well, it might not be bad to put a little distance ... ." Kiriko began to say, Mikami was desperately resisting the urge to laugh.

"Please read the contents carefully."

"Eh ... . I'm being attached to a ship? The Kamidake! Captain Seina!?" Kiriko looked at Mikami with a confused expression, to the point of dismay. "But, Mikami-sama ... Ah, that...."

"Seina's started walking, what will you do?"

"Uhm ... I'm ... ."

"In this assignment, Seina will be your superior officer. Oh, I forgot to mention, I have decided that another person will be onboard, Amane · Kaunaq, will be attached as Seina's assistant, In addition to her, Hakuren, Karen, Suiren and Gyokuren are supposed to be assigned ... ... what do you say? "Mikami smiled happily.

Thunk! Kiriko banged her hands on the desk. "I'll do it!"

"Very well."

"Thank you. Mikami-sama!" Kiriko's expression grew sunny.

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When they received the report from Hakuren that the ship Seina was on was hit by Tarrant, Erma was the most upset.

“Seina's wounds have already undergone restorative treatment and he is undergoing medical treatment at the advanced treatment satellite.”

“Well, let's hurry and go see him! Hey Erma?” Amane shook Erma's shoulder. She wasn't paying attention.

“Huh?”

“I'm going to go see Seina.”

“What... oh, I ..... I can't go ... ...”

“What are you talking about? Are you OK?”

“Oh, I'm sorry ... I'm a little surprised .... Please go on without me, I don't want to overwhelm him by having too many people around. I have to go over to Airi's place anyways.”

“Well, then what are we waiting here for, please let me know if you find out anything more over there.”

“Of course ... ... well then, I'll be back soon!” Amane stole a coat off the sofa and jumped out of the living room. In exchange, Airi came and started to tinker with NB.

After Mikami came in and Airi was dragged away, Erma went, distressed, to her room in the President's office and was unable to handle her work.

A monitor for communication was activated, “Erma, are you there?” When you get some free time come over here!” As usual, Airi cut off communication without waiting for an answer.

“I can't keep sulking forever.” Erma stood up as if pushed by Airi's message, but Airi was standing in front the door as she turned to open the door to go see her.

“Aaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

“Don't cry, you're coming with me!” Airi dragged Erma off forcibly.

“Ah ah ah ah, where are you going, don't pull so hard!”

“I have something good to show you!

× × ×

Airi dragged her to a small ship docking site at the bottom of the ship. She threw Erma wildly into a two-seater spacecraft which was the size of a mini car, before she jumped into the driver's seat.

“Owch ... ... You didn't have to be so rough!”

“We have to hurry!” Airi drove the spacecraft wildly.

“Hurry? Where are we going?”

“Never mind that, Erma, are you sure you don't want to be on staff on Seina's ship?”

“Well ... but ... ... I have work to do here.”

“Amane and Kiriko are on board, why should you miss out on the fun?”

“You already have Amane and Kiriko, is that really necessary?”

“Are you going to let Hakuren-chan have all the fun?”

“Is this an order?”

“No, it's different.”

“If that's the case, I will withhold my application for the time being, of course I will still help the others as backup... ... Now, where are you taking me?”

“My first studio.”

“Huh! Oh!”

A Philosopher's first workshop was the place where they conducted only the most important research and it was usually overseen directly by the philosopher themselves. It was a place more exclusive and secure then the central hub of any country, it was a highly confidential place. Even Airi's high-ranking secretaries were rarely allowed to enter.

“Get ready!”

At that time, the academy's star which was visible on the right was distorted and disappeared. The next moment, the scenery returned to normal again. But before their eyes appeared a space station similar to a honeycomb, which she had never seen been before.

“Is that it? It seems to be a little small...”

It was about one kilometer in length. A Philosopher's research was diverse and usually needed lots of space. But this was small. The small ship on which they road went into one of the beehive holes.

“Here's the gate, follow me.”

Two people who got off the small ship started walking. They seemed to be in a small passage that had nothing in it but was a collection of a surprisingly large number of identity checking mechanisms and transfer gates. In the passage of only 50 meters, hundreds of checks were being conducted and repeated and only those who passed through the checks could go to the destination at the end of the transfer gate.

A sense of incongruity was felt by Erma when she passed through the super long distance transfer gate and came in front of a giant room full of giant equipment.

“Is this?”

“Yes this is the ship Seina will be put on.”

“You’re giving him a ship that you built in your first studio!?”

Airi did not answer Erma's question, she went down the stairs directly in front of her instead. It was like an open mobile operation room even though it was a small circular room.

“I've been waiting for you, Airi,” A woman came over to Airi.

“Tennyo ......?” Erma was familiar with the face of the lady.

She was the woman who was with Seina at the lake after Miki's incident.

“Do I know you? I'm pretty sure this is the first time I've met someone named Erma ... ... Oh wait, that's right, you’re one of those girls who peeped on me and Seina at Seto-sama's place that one time.”

“Oh ... uhm ... ... I'm sorry!” Erma turned red and lowered her head.

“It's okay, you were worried about Seina, and besides you were just there to help Airi, just like you’re here to help her now.”

“... ... I'm here to help her?”

“This ship was unexpectedly delayed in delivery, so everyone here is staying up all night to do the final checking work, we have to be through so I asked Airi for assistance ...”

“Eh!?” Erma looked at Airi.

“Uhuhuhu! You did say you'd help out as back up, didn't you?

“Yes, yes, but... isn't this a bit short notice?”

Airi and Tennyo each grabbed one of Erma's arms and dragged her to the operator seat.

“I hope you got some good sleep before you got here!”

“Good luck ...!”

Erma looked like she saw a ghost.

“Make sure to double check all the bells and whistles the GP added, thank you.”

× × ×

Tennyo and Airi sat on both sides of Erma.

Since the checking was done mostly by a program, the work itself was not very active. They were checking on the operations of basic equipment, the automatic responses and maintenance systems, and making notes accordingly. Nonetheless, it was a long and tedious job where they had to repeat every process tens of thousands times. Erma began checking the work process.

“This is ...! ... This ship is .....” Erma looked at the specs displayed, and became silent.

Because it was the size of a GP main battleship, it was comparable to its ability. Of course, it was nothing surprising when compared to something like a royal ship. But it was completed perfectly so that it was easily mass producible. The estimated maintenance costs were a fifth of that of a single GP battleship.

“This ship is a being developed as Jurai's next major series of battleship, it's code-named the Kamidake.”

“Why!? Why are they giving this to Seina?”

“Is it that odd of an idea? He's already encountered Komachi · Kyo, and Tarrant · Shank..... Oh yeah, and he also encountered Ryoko · Balta.”

“That's!”

“With such an encounter rate, isn't it just natural to prepare a suitable ship for him?”

“Well, yeah ... maybe .... But still, it isn’t the Academy's place to give him Jurai's next major ship ... ...”

“The most important thing to remember about Seina is that he has the full backing of Jurai, or well more specifically Seto-sama, and that comes with certain benefits. His luck attracts various troubles, so it's perfect for testing new ships.”

“I see ... ... that certainly may be so.”

“Aren't they afraid of showing it off too soon though? A big country like Jurai is pretty careful in deploying its new armaments. It no doubt will cause other countries to be worry about their intentions.”

“Are they trying to leak its schematics?”

“... ... Who knows what that crusty old hag is ever up to! Does it matter? Is that why you're so interested in this ship?” Airi who kept silent till then said happily.

“Oh ... but ... .”

Tennyo looked a bit embarrassed for Erma. “Don't think about it too hard, I just trust that Seto-sama, has Seina's best interest in mind.”

“Well, she could be right.”

“Oh? Now you’re worried Tennyo?”

“The motive for putting him on here could be impure. We better make sure everything is in order.”

“I'm surprised you have so little faith in my invention!”

“Ah ha ha! Why shouldn't I? We all known the kinds of things you've done with your inventions lately.”

“You little twerp! I'll show you what I can do!” Airi and Tennyo, began fighting by moving their hands with quick movement that grew in speed with the intensity of their argument.

“Ahaha ..... you two are so similar.”

“Well, she is my Grandma.”

“Don't call me Grandma!” That hit a nerve and Airi suddenly stopped her hand flailing.

“Fine, but for Seina's sake, Airi, I hope you haven't put anything funny in this ship. After all, this is a ship to protect my precious brother's life.”

“Is Seina your brother?” Erma asked.

“Well, I used to switch places with Kiyone and she was like his mother, he's also like my son!”

“Well, either way that would make Airi his Grandma.”

“I, ...HE! ..... NO IT'S Different ... Don't CALL ME HIS GRANDMA!” Airi, panicked and began to look for a way to get out of there.

Tennyo who watched her squirm gave a satisfied V sign. “Victory!”

“Remind me how you two are related to Minaho again? You’re so different from her?”

“Oh is that so.... Minaho has to be particularly strict because she's one of Seto's top officers, there's a big difference between someone working for the Royalty of Jurai and the Academy's executives.”

With that, the conversation ended. The three people went back to concentrating on work for a while.

As Erma was also Airi's secretary, this work had a familiar feeling to her. The three of them rhythmically operated their keyboards as if they were competing in a piano competition.

“There are fewer weapons loaded than I would have thought ... ... even so, the power output of each one is amazing.”

When their work came to a stop for a short break, Erma listened to Airi and Tennyo talk.

“Well, it is just a decoy ship after all. For the time being, it is more than well equipped to immobilize another ship and it was designed with high mobility and firing accuracy in mind, but it's still more important to protect the crew in these ships then it to be victorious in battle.”

“I see……”

“Also, Seina's ability is incredibly powerful, but we don't know how much effect it will have long term.

“Space Pirates will develop countermeasures. Speaking of which, there is even bigger ship being built for him, but what is most important for Seina is high reliability, that's why we’re using a ship that is suited for mass production.”

“But the main computer is a bit strange, why is that ...?”

“Isn't it super-efficient?”

“Well, yeah, but when I input commands ... ... it gives me some strange outputs ...” Erma was puzzled by the Kamidake's main computer's reactions to her input. It felt off, but she couldn't put her finger on just how. “... ... like a child.”

“Yeah, that's right! Or like a strange animal... ...”

“Ahahahaha! Oh yeah! It's cute, right? The ship is going to be mass-produced, but this is the only one with the main computer prototype I designed, which imitates the Royal Trees.”

“Royal Trees!? You’re putting a Royal Tree ship computer in something like this?”

“A royal tree is not a computer, it has a proper personality ... No, a god-like existence that surpasses that of a human beings, they are a higher-dimensional life form.”

“Higher dimensional ..... life form, I've heard rumors, is it really true?”

“Well, it doesn't have any of the power of the royal ships, but there are many uncertain factors that may contribute to their power. Airi-sama decided that Seina-chan would be the perfect fit for testing that theory out.”

“But what is inside of a royal ship is a super top secret, how can you do research on it?”

“You can do it, if you become their friend.”

“It makes friends? But it's a higher dimensional life form, isn't that like being friends with a God?”

“Well, I used to think the same thing, until I met Yosho.”

“Yosho-sama is the oldest son of the Emperor of Jurai who is now missing, right? Well, I heard from the senior secretaries that you and he had some various complicated circumstances ... Well, for the time being you’re going to have to give me a brief backstory, because I'm lost .....”

“You know, I'm from Airai.”

“Yes.”

“I'll spare you the details, but Airai was seeking a tangible god. When they heard about Tsunami, who was the founder of royal ships, they wanted to capture her because she was believed to be one of the three highest level Goddesses and we didn't want the Juraians to use that power against us, or so I thought. When I went to the Academy it was the same time when he was there..... I was Yosho's guide and well... we did everything that was associated with that.”

“Are you OK? ... Why would you tell me such a thing?” Erma answered confused, to Airi who spoke joyfully about a story that could easily be sold to a gossip magazine for a ridiculously large sum of money.

However, Airi continued. “Oh no. It's ok! We did a lot of things, and eventually I successfully got inside and got to see “Funaho-chan” ... ... Can you believe that he named his tree after his mother. Isn't that hilarious? Such a mama's boy, right?”

“Airi, the story has derailed! Get back on track..... Yosho-sama gave Funaho-sama's name to his ship ...”

“Oh right! Anyways, I was scared to meet Funaho-chan, terrified, but Funaho-chan was every bit as silly as the name that mama's boy gave it. Not at all threatening.”

“You left out the embarrassing part of that love story that was so hilarious, you know that part where you slept with that mama's boy, who was a minor... and gave birth to Aunt Minaho. Wasn't that the main cause of the Airai's continued nationwide isolation?”

“Ahahahaha! Well I, uhm... I'm the president of the Galaxy Academy and the great philosopher, Masaki Airi! Is there anything wrong with that?” Airi's title made her nearly invincible. No one would say anything about what she did for fear of the repercussions. However ... ...

“Weren't you supposed to tell her about the royal ship?” Tennyo dashed away when Airi came at her.

“Oh ... right ... ... it was surprising to meet the tree in his ship, it was cute and pretty, it tickled me till I cried for mercy.”

“Haha ... so it's cute?”

“Although it may seem unbelievable, the trees don't like fighting.”

“But aren't the trees said to be the strongest thing in the galaxy?”

“Can't the same thing can be said for Seina, too?”

“Huh?”

“When you look at it objectively, Seina has in only a few battles caught hundreds of Space Pirates, hundreds of criminals, Widow, he survived Tarrant ... ... what would other people who don't know him think about that?”

“Is that ... how it is for the royal trees too?”

“If the trees were just a computer, Jurai would be able to conquer all of space not just the galaxy, but the trees don't care for that and the owners of the ships can't force them too.”

“If the tree ships got serious about it, would it be possible rid the galaxy of Space Pirates?”

“If they felt like it they could destroy the entire galaxy and everyone in it.”

“They have so much power!?”

“No royal ship wants such a thing, they only wish to deter fighting. But Seina is different ... His power can rid the world of Space Pirate without destroying the galaxy ...”

“Oh!” That meant that Seina was even more dangerous than the royal ships for the space pirates. Erma realized and her face froze.

“It's amazing to think that Seina only got into space by pure coincidence.”

“... ..... Kiriko tried to make Seina return to the Earth because she was worried about him ... ... but irresponsibly so .....”

“I can see why she would think of it in a bad way, it means he will face lots of enemies. That old hag is up to something terrible, I wonder how many times I've had that thought since he came here.” Airi started shaking her fist in the air as she recalled some bad memories.

“Well, all of us, especially Airi, has had to work hard to make sure we had the power to protect ourselves but Seina doesn't have the time or luxury to do that on his own...”

“Yeah ... Your right.”

“I am sorry, this is a lot to dump on you, I know, but if it were your cute little brother, wouldn't you want to give him whatever protection you could?”

“For my cute little brother?” Erma remembered the sight of Seina and Tennyo at the lake. “Yes, if he looked at me that way, I would do anything.”

Tennyo gave a really gentle and sad smile.

(……Ah!) Erma remembered when Seina's smile was empty right after she told him about Miki's incident and sent Seina off to the dormitory. (At that time, I remember ... ... Seina seemed to be just walking around like a doll, just moving emotionless like something was missing. — He's never been allowed by life to have any hopes or desires. The only thing that he's wanted was to stay in the GP, but he's aware of what he has to pay for that. Seina opened himself up for once, even

though life had decided drill a hole in him and fill it with more misfortune then any one person should ever have to experience. I want to fill that hole of sadness left by his luck ... with happiness!) Erma felt a strong desire resembling a severe thirst

* * * **Translators' note: Keep in mind Airi and Tennyo clearly know and have hinted several times here that they know who Erma really is and they're telling her this highly classified information.**

I lost track of time. I'm gonna say like this is like day 112. Honestly after this point there's no reason to count the days. * * *

A week after that, Seina, who was in the hospital, was getting used to peaceful everyday life again. He found spiritual stability in telling Amane how he felt, and Amane came and visited him regularly. But other than that, there wasn't much foot traffic to see him. As for Kiriko, communication between the parties during the investigation was forbidden, so his communication with the outside world was blocked and there was no way for him to know her situation, or for Kiriko to know his.

"It can't be helped... I'll just have to be patient ... ... honestly, even if I meet with Kiriko now, I don't know what we would talk about ..." he felt a sense of discomfort. "... ... But it's amazing she was able to save me at all."

Seina rolled up the hems of his clothes and looked at the burn scars on his arms and legs that had been shot up. It took three months to move normally again. Due to Seina's bio-enhancement it had only been a week, and at that point it was mostly cured but it still felt a bit off.

"The holes themselves were healed up in a matter of hours, that was really amazing ... but ...." Seina had several needles poked into him to stitch up his various wounds, but many had been put in the wrong place because of his bad luck. It happened so often that Seina had to convince them to let him do it himself. He was so good at it because of how often he had to do first aid on himself. It amazed the doctors and nurses and they had all gathered watch him do it.

"Uhmm.....We'll let you do the rest by yourself, later," is what they said.

"In the end, I even bothered the doctors and the nurses." But it wasn't all bad. It was a good opportunity for him and the doctors to get to know the hazards of treating him and he was thankful that the people who managed the facility were so attentive and understanding of his condition.

On that day, Seina, who had finished lunch in the big cafeteria of the hospital, changed out of his medical clothes after receiving his last medical checkup. He changed back into his GP uniform and had to re-adjust to how they felt after being out of them for so long.

The alert for notifying him he had guests rang.

"Here I go, I guess..." he said. The doors opened and in came Mikami.

“Principal Mikami!” Seina corrected his posture and saluted. Mikami nodded in satisfaction at his salute with her powerful gaze.

“You look healthy, the results of your medical checkup look good, and I’m relieved.”

“I apologize for causing any inconveniences.”

“No need to be sorry, you're here. But don't forget Mitoto was also involved.”

“I'm probably the one that attracted the Space Pirates ... ... as a result ...”

“Regardless of how much you regret it, it won't change anything. It is more important for you to learn and grow from that experience then to mope over it. You ought to know that by now.”

“Yes.”

“Seina Yamada, you are now permitted to leave the hospital. You'll be instructed on your next assignment soon. We have forwarded the information to your NB, so please follow the instructions you find there.”

“Immediately? ... But ... ...” Seina wanted to go to Amane's house immediately to check on Kiriko.

“Work is work and you don't want to hold people up now do you? You should go to the site immediately.”

“I understand! I'll be there soon!” Seina stretched his spine quickly before he saluted again.

“Thank you.”

Seina turned his back on Mikami as she smiled. He left the room with NB and left the hospital after saying goodbye to the doctors and nurses who had come to know him over the past week. He headed for the transfer gate that NB guided him to. Most of them were very busy with people coming and going but the pathway to this one seemed abandoned.

NB looked back at Seina as they proceeded toward down the empty passage suddenly. “Master, are you concerned about Kiriko?” NB asked Seina, who stopped walking suddenly.

“Of course, I wonder how she's doing ... ...” Seina smiled with a light expression and looked out the window nearby into outer space at the Academy's planet. “... ... I remember what happened when I got up to space for the first time.”

“When you came from the Earth to the Academy?”

“Can you believe it? On the Earth, only a handful of people ever get to see such a sight, and it costs a lot of money.”

“Sorry, but here it's just an everyday sight.”

“..... One day, I got a pamphlet from Amane and filled it out half-jokingly, when I woke up I was on a GP transport ship. Mitoto was in front of me..... And just like now I was unable to get in touch with Kiriko no matter how hard I tried... “

“There are lots of similarities, like when Amane first came to visit me in the hospital, and when I was brought in front of principal Mikami and I chose to remain in the GP ... . Well, at least then I was reunited with Kiriko at the immigration office.”

“I see.”

“Well, I guess we will see each other again soon enough.” Seina said. “..... Right now, I guess I should just be glad that none of the nurses tried anything funny with me....”

“If you like, I can do that ... I seem to have that feature still installed ... ... do you want me to initialize it?”

“Please don’t....”

“If you like I can change my voice setting? I can make myself sound like a young nurse if you like. I have the voices of many famous young actresses installed.”

“Please don't do that, besides I like your weird old man voice, I've gotten used to it ... ... And besides if you change it like that it might cause some sort of crazy misunderstanding.” Especially if they were the kind of actresses Seina thought they were.

“Airi sure put some weird features in you, but you know... some of them are actually kind of amusing.”

“Oh is that so ...”

Seina looked outside once again with a wry smile.

“... ... ... Master are you lost?”

“I'm just checking ..... I'm making sure I'm prepared.”

“I only ask because my data base refers to this hall as the passage of the lost.”

“Passage of the Lost?”

“It seems this part of the hospital is for advanced treatment, and they only bring people here who are in serious and likely fatal condition. It's also a very confusing part of the building and it’s easy to get lost in.”

“Did Mikami direct you to go this way?

“... She must have wanted you to have plenty of time to get over there, to think until you were convinced. Are you sure you don't want to stay a while longer?”

“I don't feel like leaving.”

“Huh?”

“I like this place, but if I am not here, I know that the probability that someone will get caught up in my luck and get hurt will be reduced. So I'm leaving even though I want to stay here. Whether I'm prepared or not I have to just push through it.”

“Being a Human being seems hard.”

“Haha, yeah it is.” Seina regained his composure. “Let's go, NB!” Seina stared straight at the transfer gate.

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Seina came out the gate into a passage with no doors or windows with many strict guards standing by. No signs were anywhere to be found indicating where he was.

“This sure is a strictly guarded place.” NB said as they went through the 10th door so far. “There are so many doors, and a tremendous number of sensors and there seems to be transfer gates built in the doors as well.”

“Transfer gates? Are we still in the hospital?”

“Eight of the gates so far seem to be for eliminating foreign bodies, mostly microscopic things.”

“Huh?”

“To remove any explosives or Nano-machines, this place must be very confidential.”

“Why are you taking me to such a place?”

“I am only following my orders, Master. I will understand if you want to go back.”

Pssssshh! A wide space spread across the door that opened next with the sound of a pressurized lock being unsealed.

“Oh! Apparently this is the last gate.” He passed through the door, there was a small ship docked there. And the ship was surrounded in cubic containers.

“Wow ... What?!..... What is this?”

It was a pure white, seamless container that seemed different from a regular container.

“Oh that's High Level sealed container ..... it's used when carrying large fragile objects like precision parts or other special items ....”

“There's a person over there so why don't we ask them?” Seina found three peoples shadows near the container.

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“Oh Alan, are you sure we have to do this?”

“I don't want to be on the same ship as Seina Yamada.”

“What are you saying? We have no choice! We're broke.” Alan, Barry, and Cohen talked on the other side of the container.

“I heard he encountered Tarrant.”

“But the salary is really high, and we fit the qualifications ... Do you know anywhere else we can make this kind of money? We can't quit, we can't even afford to get fired. If we don't make a lot of money soon our debt will become inescapable.”

“That's right, but ... it's still better than being dead right?”

“Hey, if you’re okay with not having anything to eat and having to always feel like you did when we had to run from those fan club members then go ahead.”

“Well ... I don't want that either.”

“Think about it. If you encounter someone like Tarrant and survive, you'll be able to brag! You'll be a legend! And this is an Army battleship, isn't it? You know the specifications of this ship, right? Rumor has it that they made it to take down the Daedalus.”

“Really?”

“Like Alan says, this is certainly not an ordinary ship.”

“Also what if we see Ryoko-sama or some new Space Pirates that could be an idol?”

“We could ... ... create a new fan club ... .”

“That's right! If we could pay off our loans right away, we might even have enough to never have to work a dangerous job for the rest of our lives right?”

“I miss the days before we met those Space Pirates ...”

“Ah, the glory days!”

“Then let's do it right this time. We won't let greed get in the way!”

“Hahahahah! Yes, let's do it! Hey wait, whose shadow is that, did Seina Yamada walk over here while I was talking?” When Alan turned nervously he found Seina next to him.

“Oh! Seina, How are you?” He said in a panic.

“Oh, Alan! It's been a long time.” Seina saluted.

“Hmm, I've seen you salute better, but you look good Seina.”

“Thank you.”

“When we first met you, you were our cargo, so we treated you like a VIP.”

“But this time it's different, now you're on the bottom rung, so if you don't mind could you do our laundry for us?”

“Oh, and of course we will be the first to speak when we see Ryoko.” Following Alan, Barry and Cohen also began to speak arrogantly to Seina.

“..... Oh, okay ... but why would you be the one to talk to Ryoko?”

“Superior officers’ orders are absolute! But we will forgive your questioning this time.”

“Oh... Thank you!” Seina saluted, he heard someone else clear their throat.

“Crew line up!”

“What is that now...? I bet some teacher is here to scold the cadets ... EEEP!!”

Alan, turned and saw the voice was going from the former GP secretary, Minami Kuramitsu, he turned blue and assumed an upright stiff posture.

“Long time no see!” Seina turned towards Minami and saluted.

“You seem to be healthy... I'm sorry Mitoto has caused you various inconveniences.”

“No, I am sorry that I got Mitoto caught up in my own bad fortune.”

“Anyway I'm glad you're safe. It's good to see you again, although I never expected it would be this soon.”

“I understand why, I only started my practical training less than half a year ago.”

“Indeed ... Oh! It seems that preparations for boarding have almost been completed.” Minami looked up at the container.

A small hole suddenly opened in the side wall of the container, Hakuren and her girls came down from it on a moving plate.

“Oh oh oh oh! WOW!” Alan hardened when he saw the beautiful quartet of Hakuren's girls and he raised ruckus of cheers.

Seina, who had experienced similar things in the student dormitory once, relived this reunion less appreciatively.

“Welcome, we've been waiting for you.” Hakuren's quartet wore the uniform of the GP cleaning department and saluted.

“I'm having trouble picking one!” Alan pushed Seina, he jumped out towards the quartet and looked like a top as he spun to pick his favorite of the four. Gyokuren who boasting unrivaled beauty, especially caught Alan's eye, he became fixated and began to shiver as if his soul had been pulled out.

“... .....This is it! This is our lucky break!”

“Welcome, please you three, get on the plate.” Hakuren moved in front of Gyokuren to shield her from Alan's disgusting gaze. She responded with a gaze that pierced Alan's soul.

”Seina, please come with us.” Karen and Suiren went around Alan who was in a daze and they each held one of Seina's arms and led him off as those left on the plate watched.

“... What why are they taking Seina? He's our subordinate!”

“Oh, that's right! I forgot to mention, he's the Captain and the cleaning staff out rank you.” Minami responded with dissatisfaction to Alan.

“Remember, a superior officers’ orders are absolute! I'll forgive you this time.” Minami mimicked Alan's previous tone to Seina.

“He's the what!?”

“Oh ... . ah!”

They jumped to salute Hakuren's quartet, realizing they were their superior officers.

“Huh, how rude!”

“Please start boarding.”

Following Hakuren's words, Alan's group headed to the plate as they resisted the urge to run to the exit.

“Thank you Minami, please excuse us.” Hakuren and Gyokuren saluted Minami, he walked towards Seina who was being held still by Karen and Suiren.

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“Is that the sound of opportunity I hear rolling in so soon?” Alan said as he headed for the boarding plate.

“Opportunity?”

“You saw them, they’re beautiful enough to be idolized ... one of them even reminds me of Amane · Kaunaq! I think we've found our new Space Pirate idol substitute!”

“Okay! So If we create our fan club ... ...” Alan started rambling as the plate went up in the ship.

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The moving plate that Seina got on entered another entrance that showed off the ship. The entrance closed as if it had always been just a wall.

“Seina, this is the Kamidake. It's your ship.” Hakuren said. The ship was shaped like a cone laid on its side. It was perfect to describe such a space ship as looking like a toy space ship in a Styrofoam case.

“Why is it in such a container?”

“The Kamidake is a prototype made for mass production. It was just completed, ahead of schedule. I don't have specific details but Airi-sama made this ship, so if you like you can ask her.”

“Huh?” Seina reflexively thought of NB who he had with him.

“What's that look for?”

“Uhm well ... ... That worries me a bit.”

“Don't worry if anything happens we'll remove the plugins like last time... unless you want your ship to turn into a pretty young woman?” Hakuren joked about the situation Seina and NB experienced when they lived with him. She paused for laughter but none came.

“Uhm... ... well then... Seina, there's no need to worry. Our performance checks all came up good and the crew is also made up of some excellent people, so you should be relieved.” Hakuren said to stop the discussion about Seina and his NB.

“Yes, that's right.”

“Master, If you like I can acquire the personal data of Miss Hakuren. Or Miss Suiren, or do you prefer Gyokuren, how about Karen?”

“AH! Uhm no thanks NB, that's alright. No need for that.” Seina pulled NB close to shut it up. At the same time, the moving plate rose to enter the Kamidake.

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Seina was taken into a room decorated much like that of a luxury hotel. Seina's closet was a master bedroom sized room. He changed into his uniform as instructed by Hakuren. She waited till he came out and finely groomed him when he was done switching outfits.

“Um ... ... By the way, what will I be doing with this ship?”

“Please come with me.” Hakuren brought Seina to a desk at the back of the room without answering him. “Please sit here, and try not to move your body.”

“Ok.” Seina sat in the chair, a shield was enclosed him, and he was sucked in together with the chair into a hole that opened on the floor. “Ehhhh?”

After moving for a few seconds through a dimly lit tube, Seina was suddenly surrounded by bright light. He had arrived on the Kamidake's bridge.

“Where is this?” He looked around, Seina looked down at the lower tier where Alan's group saluted him.

“....., Seina! Why are you are seated in such a place! That's the Captain's seat!” Alan's said.

“Hey, they must have made a mistake come down here quickly.” Alan beckoned.

“It's not a mistake.” The seats where Hakuren and Suiren sat came up from both ends of the operator seats with five seats in front of them.

“What!!” Alan became upright and immovable, he saluted Hakuren and the others.

“Seina Yamada, today you are appointed as the Captain of Kamidake.” Hakuren said, saluting him.

“You're doing what now!?” Alan and Seina made the same declaration at the same time.

“Well Alan, I guess that means he's the Captain.”

“Then what are we waiting for?” Barry said. Alan tightened his facial expression.

“... ... ... Salute to the Captain!” They saluted.

“Hehe.” Seina reflexively saluted himself and felt a bit stupid for doing so.

A seat with Amane in it rose on an elevated platform diagonally beside the Captain seat Seina was in.

“... .... Oh, Amane-sensei!?”

“I'm not your teacher anymore, Captain.” Amane saluted Seina, and winked with a smile. “Well, even so, it's sudden and I'm not surprised you feel that way.”

“I'm the Captain now... ... everything feels too sudden!”

“I'll tell you the details later, but everything is always sudden for you and you still do it, don't you?”

“That's true……”

At that time, Seina remembered Mikami's words in the hospital room. “Even so, you’ve changed the powers structure of the galaxy in a blink of the eye.....”

Another seat rose up on the other side of Seina.

“……Huh?” Seina turned around to see Kiriko sitting on the seat that came up. “Kiriko!”

It was an abrupt reunion, Seina looked at Kiriko's face tensely. Of course it was the same for her. Her expression was also nervous. The people around them were patiently waiting for the two to quit staring. Of course Alan, who did not know the circumstances of their stares, ordered Hakuren and Suiren to quietly wait at the operator's seat.

“What's the matter, is something wrong? It's about time we launched.”

“... ... Oh, yes...”

Seina had reunited with Kiriko just like at the immigration office as he had predicted to NB earlier in the ‘Passage of the Lost’. Not only Seina, but also Kiriko remembered that day. They smiled at each other and the atmosphere of the place went back to normal.

Kiriko stood up with a crisp expression, “I'm here as your head Information Officer, I am Kiriko Masaki. Thank you for having me, Captain Seina Yamada!” She saluted Seina.

“Nice to meet you.” Seina said also a bit awkwardly.

“When are you going to quit staring at each other? It is about time to set sail.” Amane poked Seina from behind.

“Oh, that's right, I almost forgot!” Kiriko quickly sat down in her seat and began preparing for launch.

“Er, um ... ... What am I supposed to ...?”

“Captain us somewhere, we'll take care of all the details.” Amane pulled the hem of Seina's outerwear to usher him down into his seat and she began preparations just like Kiriko.

“But first we must perform the initial certification and registration of you as this ship's Captain,” Kiriko said, as a scanning plate appeared around Seina. It was a more sophisticated one then the ones used to take role at the student dormitory.

“Scan complete, your registration as Captain of the Kamidake is complete, Kamidake launch program start.” At that time, Seina's heard a laughter like a child in his ear.

“Ahahahaha.”

“Uwaaaa....” A light like a spherical aurora appeared behind him, it turned to face Seina happily. The rainbow-colored light appeared and disappearing in a complicated pattern, as if it had a

shape like a tree. (This atmosphere is ... ... just like Seto's tree ... ...) Seina remembered the bridge of Seto's ship.

"Engine start complete, they are rising to the scheduled output values, raise the first and fourth to the normal operating range."

"Each block checks out, startup is good, first startup complete."

"Ready to start the main engine, Captain, please authorize."

"Yes, start the main engine!" Seina said, the huge white pillar that reached to the ceiling, which held the Kamidake in place, disappeared into grains of light.

"Kamidake launched! All green, no problems!"

"It seems that the startup has completed successfully."

Airi was on the main screen with her technicians who performed the final checks, Seto, Minaho, Tennyo, Hakuryo, Erma, Minami, Mikami, Mitoto, and the Kamidake were displayed.

All of the Kamidake crew stood up and saluted.

"From this Day on you belong to the GP decoy division, the special mission for your new ship, the Kamidake, will start once you depart for your first training flight."

"Everything looks good. They're allowing our departure." Kiriko reported. Airi nodded satisfied, and saluted Seina back. And after Airi, everyone there saluted too.

The Kamidake, which descended to the starting passage began to sound a shrill groan. It was from the powerful engine that sounded like it came from a ship much larger than the Kamidake's small hull.

"Engines shows no abnormality."

"No obstacles on the scheduled navigation route!" Amane and Kiriko reported, the eyes of everyone concentrated on Seina.

"Hmm ....." Seina sighed deeply, and calmed his feelings, "Alright Kamidake, let's go!" He said powerfully.

"The Kamidake, will now take off!"

Without any shock, suddenly the scenery outside began to flow by with great speed, and in a few seconds the Kamidake was hugged in twinkling stars and a jet black universe.

Afterword: Concluding Theater Part 2

Last time:

When he tried to call Yosho's Shrine office by calling the Masaki Family Home, Seina, whose calls were being refused, got Ryo-Ohki on the line to listen to some of his complaints. Of course Ryo-Ohki was planning to tell everyone shortly after, but she had a short attention span and often nodded off in the middle of his complaints and later would forget to tell anyone most of his complaints about Airi. It wasn't surprising considering that Seina had been talking with her for a long time. She yawned.

“Thank you for listening Ryo-Ohki-chan, let's end things here for now.”

“Miah, Mia!” Ryo-Ohki jumped as she responded to Seina.

Seina who ended the communication turned his head a little curiously.

“... ..... I am afraid Ryo-Ohki doesn't understand what I'm saying, but oddly I also feel like I understand some of what she's saying now...”

It was later on that Seina learned that Ryo-Ohki's words were a kind of high-speed language, and if you listened for a while, you could understand most of what she said. But thanks to his Bio-Enhanced hearing he would soon be able to know what she said...

“Oh right... I wonder how Kai is doing. I know he doesn't know his alien identity yet, so I have to be careful in conversation.” Seina quickly entered the telephone number of Kai’s house.

Thanks to Ryo-Ohki, Seina was able to change his sour mood, “Yes, You've reached the Masaki's ~ ~”

Seina could tell he was a bit out of sorts from his usual self by his voice.

“... ... It's been a while ... How are you Kai!”

“Oh, that voice! Is that you Seina?! Ha ha, how are you doing?”

“That voice? Oh, I see ... ...” Seina remembered that the other side couldn't see the picture.

There was no camera on the other party's phone. Nevertheless, Seina wondered how the image could be seen., He tried asking Erma about it before – – – According to her it distinguished the shape, material, and even color from the reverberation of sound and then computer generated the image in real time.

However, due to the poor audio recording performance of the Earth handset, the noise levels in the sound was severe, and it could not fully reproduce the image by itself. So it compensated by referring to a long distance image taken from an observation satellite in Earth's orbit.

“Yeah, well, I am as good as usual ... ... How is school? Is everyone surprised that I was suddenly gone?”

“How do I put this ... Well, when it was explained to everyone by the teacher, everyone was surprised. It was impossible to believe that there was a school that would accept you Seina.”

“Hahaha ... are you surprised they accepted me?”

“Every day is really quiet here and boring now, thanks to your absence. ..... “

“Wow really .... Sorry, I'll do my best to check in whenever I can... so how are things with my house?”

“Smooth sailing. Business is prospering. Uncle, Aunt, and Yoshiko also seem to be busy. Better yet, are things are going well with my sister? I hear you’re living nearby. Have you had any chances to do things? Ha ha ha ....., ha ha!”

BONNNG! With a flat dull sound, Tsukiko's heel stomped Kai over the head. She held Kai's head down and he endured the pain. Tsukiko was standing prettily posed while keeping her legs on top of Kai's head.

Seina could clearly see up Tsukiko's skirt from how she was standing. “I've told you not to say such vulgar things! ..... Who are you talking to, Kai?”

“....., Seina”

“Eh!?” Tsukiko, who knew that Seina was in space, realized that the image was visible from Seina's side. She turned bright red and quickly lowered her legs, and fixed her skirt. She picked up the receiver from Kai, and violently pushed away her son, who was still in pain. “Hello ... is this Seina-chan?” Tsukiko was afraid to ask if he had seen.

“... ... Oh, it's been a long time ...” Seina turned red and answered in a troubled way.

For Tsukiko, Seina was not just a friend of Kai's but he was also something like a son. But she was also not lying about the comments about her wanting him to become her husband and what she planned to do with Seina that she had scathingly told Kiriko earlier before, and she had been conscious of him as a man for a while. And youthful Tsukiko who looked at the very most to be an older sister to Kiriko had enough charm to make Seina conscious of her as a woman.

Tsukiko's undergarment grew conscious of the opposite sex..... Well that's one way to phrase it.

“..... (Did you see up my skirt?)” She silently thought to say.

“…… (I saw)” He silently responded in his head.

The silence between confirmed that fact.

The end

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Kajishima commentary: Basically he just talks about how the next volume is going to be about how Tarrant holds Ryoko's crew's families hostage after failing to kidnap Seina's family on Earth and sets her up to have to kill Seina and also how Neiju is introduced... nothing surprising there.

*** * * Translators' end commentary: Well that concludes another book translated. If you haven't already, check out the OVA 4 novel. Which I'll be grammar correcting next I guess.**

Anyways:

I bet Ryo-Ohki just curses up a storm.... it would be funny if she was the Kenny of the Tenchi house hold. Ryoko is clearly the Cartman... speaking of; did you know her English OVA 3 VA is the voice of like half the South Park girls, including Kyle's Mom.

Speaking of.... not to start a flame war or anything but you know how OVA 4 is about how Minaho heals Tenchi's wounds of Kiyone's death by giving him a pseudo mother experience?

Well if Minaho is like the mother in Tenchi's head, the story has definitely shown so far that Ryoko is more like how Tenchi's mother actually was then any of the other girls.

Just saying.... anyways see you next Novel. * * *